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CANADA'S

WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

Maclean's

APRIL 1, 1996

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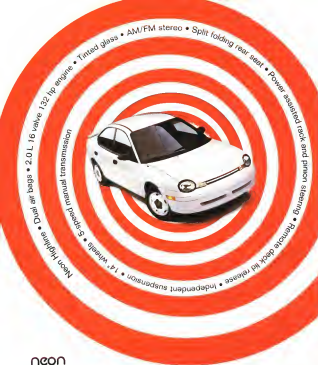
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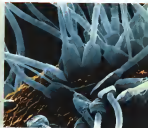
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The sperm scare

It sounds like science fiction, but researchers say that sperm counts in men are declining. While many dispute how widespread the problem is, others are searching for culprits—potentially chemicals that, they fear, could threaten human fertility in the 21st century



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A riot erupts on the opening day of the Ontario legislature as Premier Mike Harris's anti-deficit crusade continues to polarize the province



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The price of pressure

Figure skating is an unforgiving sport, as Chris Kniskern learned when a single stumble in Edmonton cost him a chance to rejoin as world champion

COVER: ANDRÉ ANTONI/PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDRÉ ANTONI; PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDRÉ ANTONI; PHOTOGRAPHED BY ANDRÉ ANTONI

From The Editor

A new look, old traditions

And now, a word about design inside the magazine this week. *Maclean's* comes to you with a completely new look. We have been introducing the basic elements over the past six weeks. But now, with a major change in our cover logs, it is time to flesh up in our third year, we thought it was time to get a new wardrobe, one in keeping with our history, but something a bit more contemporary. Readers who were given a sneak preview found that the new standardized headline type, more consistent handling of sections, use of white space and more flexible layouts were more pleasing to the eye. But much of the redesign followed function. For example, we agreed with many readers who have well-learned us to use a larger typeface in articles. Upon examination, we realized that the point size was not the problem. The issue was that the type was a condensed version of Century Old Style, one of the frequently used fonts in the magazine and advertising business. The past version of the font, uncondensed, now becomes the standard for all the magazine's body type.

Such attention to detail was the work of Art Director Nick Barnett, a 15-year veteran of *Maclean's*, who presided over and implemented the redesign with his staff. "We wanted a more contemporary presentation," says Barnett, "but also something that had a proven quality." The new *Maclean's* logo is a case in point. It retains the magazine's name in a proved position of dominance across the top of the page—partly in response to the growing competition of files on newstands, but mainly out of a conviction that the name represents a tradition and history in Canada that is well worth preserving. At the same time, the treatment evokes historical versions of the magazine's logo. "We wanted to build on our unique identity," said Barnett.

The new logo is also in evidence in other versions of the magazine—on the Internet edition available on the World Wide Web,



Recent (center) and art department colleagues (from left, Eric Leggo, Giveli Sabouni, Judy Barrett, Joe Barlow, Elizabeth Greenshields and Dan Falcowski) a new wardrobe

on the recently published *Maclean's Guide to Business* and, carrying over, at *Maclean's Online* on Compuserve and in the Chinese-language edition.

The redesign is only part of a series of recent changes in the magazine. Business coverage has been expanded with the addition of a new Personal Finance column and a new monthly Personal Finance section. A reporter has been added to the Newswatch bureau and new units have been created for law, media and education. Coverage of the professions, sports and entertainment has been increased and a new section has been added on lifestyle issues. And several investigative articles and special reports, a staple in the lineup over the years, are under way. I strong commitment to good journalism—and chasing the news—will remain our top priority. We know that more than two million readers each week will judge *Maclean's* by what it has to report not only by what we are wearing.

Robert Lewis

Newsroom Notes:

COVERING SCIENCE

This week's examination of the controversy about declining sperm counts and their possible environmental causes is the 13th cover story by Senior Writer Mark Nichols since his



Nichols: scholarly studies

appointment as science and technology editor in 1993. The subjects have ranged from dinosaurs and disappearing forests to breast cancer, the Internet and secrets of the brain. The assignment

does not get easier. "Science stories can be tricky because you have to dig into obscure scholarly studies and try to come to

grips quickly with the terminology, the concepts involved and the ifs, buts and maybes," notes Nichols, who also has written dozens of smaller articles on breaking stories. He adds: "This cover story was even more difficult than usual, because of the great degree of uncertainty that exists about what's going on. I talked to doctors, scientists, environmentalists, statisticians and bureaucrats—and about the only thing I found agreement on is that sperm counts are probably declining."



BOSS
HUGO BOSS

Photograph by Richard Avedon

Alternative fillings

The media frenzy surrounding the literary awards issue (CMAA's "Awards Overfilling" Backpack, March 18) is just one of the many sensitive issues confronting the dental profession. Analogue use for 150 years and billions of fillings placed do not by itself justify analogue's safety. If nothing else, from an environmental standpoint, we should consider following the example of industrialized countries such as Germany, Austria and Sweden, which have limited use of the material. The truth of the matter is that the average dentist in Canada does not have the skills to place alternative "filling" materials. If the dental profession should be directed to find a safe, inexpensive and easy-to-use alternative filling material.

Cheryl B. Sawatzky, D.D.S.,
Executive Vice President

The current campaign against the use of silver amalgam fillings to restore broken and decayed teeth is reminiscent of the much more intense battle waged in the 1920s and '30s by the opponents of the use of inorganic arsenicals of fluoride compounds to combat the epidemic effects of tooth decay. Both the anti-amalgamists and the anti-arsenicists were and are led by self-styled "experts" or "special interest groups" who, on unscientific anecdotal evidence and studies that raise public fear of a threat to health that, except in the case of rare scientific uncertainty, have never been proved valid. The great irony of the debate is that because of the proven positive effect of fluoridation over the past several decades, dental care has virtually ceased to exist as a serious public health problem. Thus, the current campaign is nearly as out of place as the anti-arsenicists' use of any type of dental restorative material, particularly in inorganic form.

Daniel A. Nelson, D.D.S.
St. Catherine, Ore.

'Deadly bacteria'

I recently read the article of March 11 entitled "Mutant menace" (Health), concerning the bacteria *Vibrio* cholerae-resistant to tetracycline. The rapidly increasing problem of mutating bacteria, resulting in hardy strains that are resistant to all forms of antibiotics, is quite terrifying. Yet our society is actually contributing to this problem, including medical professionals themselves. North Americans have come to rely on antibiotics as cures for many forms of illness. When antibiotics such as penicillin



Investors and real people

Congratulations to Peter D. Newman for his column "Memo to Paul Martin: It's jobs, jobs, jobs!" (*The Nation's Business*, March 18). Once again, Newman has pointed out something that others barely acknowledge: that "new jobs don't any longer follow deficit reduction. By an interesting juxtaposition, the preceding page of that issue contained a report about the sudden drop in the stock markets following the release of

Marine world of investors and brokers far removed from world of workers.

news about an increase in job creation ("Signs of growth trigger a sell-off," *Business Week*). For things, it seems to me, could illustrate more clearly that the world of investors and stockbrokers is far removed from the world of workers (read: ordinary people). Shortly before the stock market "correction," Finance Minister Martin introduced his new budget. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien was quoted afterwards expressing pleasure that the stock market reacted positively to the budget. If the stock market liked it, does that mean it will be good news for us ordinary folk, or bad? I'm not sure.

Paul Scott
Director

and Vancomycin were discovered, it was thought that these drugs could kill all forms of bacteria, so development of new antibiotics virtually stopped. If we do not cease our rampant use of antibiotics, we could have some very deadly bacteria to deal with.

Travis Gayland
Knoxville, Tenn.

ey losing. In our third quarter results reported on Feb. 7, Nelson-Bennett's gross profit was \$154.9 million.

Freda Callery
Director, corporate communications
Mullin Brewster
Texas

Cottage country

Many Muskokans get very annoyed when outsiders refer to the area where we live as the Muskokas, which you mention in two different articles ("A rose not too hot to handle," Opening Note "The ADD dilemma," Late, March 12). There is no such place. There is the District of Muskoka only.

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Jobs and budgets

The "Jobs" issue (Cover, March 11) was timely. Surely it is time we had a full First culture. Governments and corporations should not be judged by the sheer standard of how many fellow Canadians they can throw out of work while they're overseas. That's old hat and destructive.



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An American View



Fred Bruning

Insights into what makes Bob Dole run

Americans whose knees ache in the morning and who drop off before 5 a.m. and who choose from the "left" side of the menu as to what to eat at the age of 72, Bob Dole is thinking?

Instead of chilling out in his 27th year as senator from Kansas, Dole is in hot pursuit of the presidency. He has squashed a field of odd fellows seeking the Republican nomination—prosecutor Ted Buchanan, rich guy Steve Forbes, Lasser (Who?) Alexander—and now talks about electing the youngster occupying the White House. The hours and air miles Dole logged harrassing the primary states? The chicken-fried steak and jelly doughnuts consumed at small-town cafes? The lonely hotel mattress? Morning wake-up calls? Room-service coffee?

A regimen so merciless could topple a man half Dole's age, but ambition is the politician's armor and Bob Dole is motivated, head to toe. There is no way to overstate how much Dole craves employment as leader of the free world. Twice he was knocked from the ranks of GOP contenders—once by Ronald Reagan, again by George Bush—but endured to try again. At a time when he might spend idle hours dreaming of a condo in Key West, Dole is attempting a climactic career move. For most, the very idea would be exhausting.

Nat'l Joe Dole. A veteran of the Second World War whose right arm was rendered useless by a land mine in Italy, the senator may consider one of the ill of American electoral competition time by comparison. And perhaps, too, his experience in GI gave Dole the sort of pragmatic outlook invariable to politicians—in a survivalist perspective that allows only for cautious initiative. The idea is to lay low, pull through, outlast the enemy—to win. If Dole has a more elaborate agenda, a passionate view of a better America and a plan for bringing it about, he has yet to make the details public. Voters know that Bob Dole really wants to be president. They just don't know why.

Given his profession, Dole is a man of exceedingly few words. He can be funny and self-deprecating—and, as Democrats owned often through the years, Dole can be derisive and inflammatory, too—and he has a certain directness that is charming in a day when bigmouths so often prevail. But even a man of taciturn nature ought to be able to hint at what drives him so desperately—to be able to say what is at stake in 1992 for the nation and for himself.

Since fighting in Europe, Dole has learned to duck. He dropped bullets during the premiere and answers questions with the pokey lockerman platitudes of professional athletes. What will be the fundamental issues of the campaign? "It's going to be about

values," Dole said on television recently. "It's going to be about the future of this country, about keeping jobs. There will be a lot of issues left. I'm sure that something will pop up in November."

At one moment, Dole might say the race for the White House is about leadership. At another, he says the top priority is jobs. Sometimes, the issue is integrity. Sometimes, restoring power to the states. Sometimes the family awards grid. Or sacrifice. Or character. The race is about everything. The race is about nothing. Dole's enigmatic was sufficient to misinterpret the usually respectful *New York Times*. "The man is saying what he's heard the Times in an editorial," and it... has to stop?

It won't. Dole is not piece. He is a fellow of conservative leanings from a thinly populated state who has been in Washington for what amounts to forever. An Senate majority leader, he has shown consummate technical skills and, indeed, he is a consummate politician—one of those reliable regulars on Capitol Hill who knows how to get things done but who rarely suggests what is best to do.

He favors a balanced budget—in the broadest from which Dole hails, a balanced budget is as dear to the constituency as farm subsidies—and, despite the "Republican revolution" attempted by House Speaker Newt Gingrich and his thought associates, Dole acknowledges the need for government in civic life. Oh, Dole will talk about the downsizing of Washington at the moment demands, but he is not about to renounce the federal bureaucracy. To say the least, the bureaucracy has been good to him.

So his retirement just as Hillary Rodham Clinton once sensed Bill's redefinition, the impressive Elizabeth Dole, 59, may prove to be her husband's best hope. She is charismatic, intelligent, outgoing, a solid campaigner and, as the much-revered president of the American Red Cross, entirely her own woman. Already, she has made it clear that she intends to continue working outside the house—White House, included. But Bob Dole, not "Liddy," is running for president, and before election day, Americans may wish this situation were reversed.

For now, the candidate is doing what might be expected. It seems clear that Dole—with help from the chastened Gingrich, who has seen interest in his Contract With America wane like enthusiasm for a summer smooch—intends to push a legislative program that will put Bill Clinton at maximum risk. Hurtle a batch of Republican bills through Congress, slap them on the President's desk, see what happens. If Clinton agrees, the GOP takes credit. If the President balks, Dole calls him an obstructivist.

The strategy is basic and smart—but where is the risk? The wisdom? The spark? Expect none of that from Bob Dole. Should he prevail in November, Dole will be 73 when he assumes office two months later—the nation's oldest incoming chief. Dole has the right stuff when it comes to survival. But if the presidency requires no more

Fred Bruning is a writer with *Newsday* in New York.



Days of outrage

When David Harris, a 39-year-old Toronto elementary school teacher, arrived at the Ontario legislature last week, the ornate building was surrounded by almost 5,000 striking members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union (OPSEU). To show support, Harris joined the protesters, who are demanding better severance packages for 15,000 civil servants who expect to be laid off by the province's Conservative government. But Harris got more than he bargained for when violence erupted soon after Tory MPPs arrived to open the spring session of the legislature. In the melee, several civilian strikers and MPPs were spat upon and roughed up before a 30-man Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) riot squad—dressed head-to-toe in grey body armor, carrying teargas shields and wearing wooden batons—charged into the crowd to open a path into the building. Harris and three other people were hurt in the fracas. Later, a shaken Harris said "They looked like storm troopers."

The bloody confrontation—one of the most violent in Ontario's political history—will not be quickly forgotten. After a heated debate, deputy premier Ernie Eves called an inquiry into the incident. The OPP also faced sharp criticism from other police officials who said the riot squad may have even provoked the

confrontation. Premier Mike Harris expressed deep regret over the violence, telling reporters that "maybe it's time we looked at ourselves and started behaving in the 21st century like adults in an employer-employee relations." All the same, his critics say that there could be more trouble as Harris pressed ahead with his party's so-called Common Sense Revolution.

Over the next three months, the Tories plan to introduce a series of bills that will radically reduce the size of government in an bid to eliminate Ontario's \$8-billion annual deficit within five years. They also hope to have a workshare program in place later this year that will force able-bodied welfare recipients to work for their benefits. To help make the stiff fiscal medicine more palatable, Eves, who is also finance minister, has promised that his annual budget in May will contain the first of a series of tax cuts that will reduce provincial income tax rates by 30 per cent over the next three years. But as the Tory coalition gathers steam, Liberal house leader Jim Bradley said he expects more blood to flow "if they proceed as quickly and drastically as they have," said Bradley. "We will use more confrontations."

The strike that led to last week's clash with police began on Feb. 26 when most of OPSEU's 55,000 members walked off their jobs. By last Saturday, the two sides were still at an impasse over

job security, severance pay and pensions at the end of the strike's fourth week. Two weeks ago, there seemed to be a breakthrough when provincial mediator John Mather brought government and labor negotiators together and ordered a seven-hour break. But last week the union was still seeking a termination package that included three weeks' pay for every year worked, while the government was still offering two weeks' pay. OPSEU also wanted to ensure that if government work is outsourced, civil servants will move with their jobs and still be covered by the terms of their government contract. In a speech in front of the legislature just after last week's confrontation, OPSEU president Leah Casselman insisted that the union will triumph. "We are their worst nightmare," said Casselman, a 30-year-old approach from strikers. "We'll be on their case day in and day out."

The OPSEU strikers gathered last week on the muddy lawns surrounding Queen's Park at around 8 a.m., on the opening day of the spring session of the legislature. Under an arrangement with the Metropolitan Toronto Police Service that has been in place almost since the outset of the

Leach also tried to make his way through the crowd, but he was spat on, doused with coffee and bombarded with paper cups. "Are you crazy walking into that?" shouted the police officer who finally rescued him. Solicitor General Bob Ranston, also had to be escorted out of the crowd. "It was scary," said Ranston. "My heart was in my mouth when I got out of there."

The politicians who were unable to cross the line refused to give in and continued to demand to be let in. But when the strikers still refused to cooperate, the OPP riot squad made the first of two forays at about 11:30 a.m. Shouting "move, move," they charged forward jostling anyone who refused to step back. Steve Glis, a striking probation officer, was knocked unconscious by one blow. "That was totally unexpected," screamed striker Bob DeMatteo as he stood over Glis. "This is Mike Harris's own squad."

With the riot squad then blazing open a path through the strikers, the remaining MPPs moved through police lines into the legislature. "Our physical being was at risk," said Tory MPP David Tilson. "The police told us to run, and run like hell."

The violent clash later dominated debate in the legislature. Harris said he respected the strikers' right to picket, but added that the people who work in the legislature have a right of entry. But opposition MPPs demanded an inquiry into the OPP's actions. Ironically, Eves turned aside their requests. The following day, however, he surprised the legislature by announcing that there would indeed be a full inquiry. Eves is expected to appoint a retired judge to head the investigation, which will likely cost at least \$2 million and take six months to complete. "The accountability and behavior of all individuals involved should be dealt with," said Eves. "We want it to contribute to look at what went wrong."

Women in the crowd and police blamed the strikers by blowing lines at them. And Paul Weber, president of the Metro Toronto Police Association union, which has been battling government cuts to the police budget, said that just before the bloody clash members of the OPP riot squad boasted that they would "whack 'em and stick 'em." Some Toronto police officers later contradicted Weber, saying the members of the riot team behaved professionally. Top-ranking OPP officials also defended the actions of the riot squad. "Members of parliament were being illegally detained from getting into the legislature," said OPP Sgt. Bill Curran. "It was our job to get them into the House."

The melee underscored just how polarizing Harris's revolution is proving to be. Many analysts say that in carry out his cost-cutting crusade, the Tories will have to raise billions of dollars out of health and education spending and cut or sell off a number of government operations, including the Liquor Control Board of Ontario, which operates a vast network of liquor stores across the province. University of Toronto political scientist Nelson Wiseman said the looming cuts will only further divide the province. "They want to get government back to 1985 where the Tories were in power," said Wiseman. "But the province has changed a lot since then." Even a determination to phase in the promised 30-per-cent cut in tax rates is also drawing fire, with opposition critics claiming that it will force the government to cut even more drastically to meet its deficit targets.

Last week's clash with police may also strengthen opposition leaders' resolve to oppose the cuts. The government's own estimates show that only about 5,000 of the 55,000 striking workers were creating picket lines by week's end—contradicting the predictions of those who said that Harris, which has never been an strike before, would quickly crumble. "I'm surprised by their solidarity," said Wiseman. And the images of police bludgeoning strikers may now play into Harris's hands. According to Wiseman, Ontario voters are generally anti-police. "This is a very sensitive issue in Queen's Park. He added, however, that the clash with police has focused attention on the Ernie Eves and that, if the violence continues, the public may yet turn against the government. "We are in a more polarized environment than I can recall in Ontario politics," said Wiseman. But last week, at least, Harris seemed unwilling—or unable—to deuse the teargas.



Maybe it's time that we started behaving like adults.
—Ontario Premier Mike Harris

strike, picketers were supposed to delay MPPs and their staffs for only 15 minutes before letting them into the building. But as the crowd chanted "hold that line," strikers broke out and that agreement broke down, so many of the MPPs decided to force their way into the legislature.

By 11 a.m., more than 100 MPPs and their staffs had made it into the building. But the strikers, determined to send a message to Harris, still held back a number of Tory cabinet ministers and ambassadors. And as the crowd's anger grew, Metro Police officers moved in and escorted the politicians and their staff to safety. "But not before some of them were roughed up," said Jim Rupp, the press liaison in Harris's office, claimed that he was even thrown backward into a shrubbery. Municipal Affairs Minister Al



ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

Canada Fear and mourning in the Bible Belt

After her death, sunflowers were a favorite of Tara Smith. But now, nearly six months after the 18-year-old Abbotsford, B.C., high school student was sexually assaulted and viciously murdered, the brightly yellow blossoms sprout like a great deal more than just signs from the intersection where the pretty blond teen was last seen alive, in a petty middle-class neighborhood of well-maintained bungalows, stands a makeshift shrine. Along a sidewalk covered in city graffiti, decaying candles and two framed pictures of Tara. Nearby are poems and notes brought to the site by friends and strangers alike. "You never lose those you give back to God," reads one. But even more striking are the sunflowers. Dozens of them—some life, some plastic—line the driveway in crayon, bears the inscription: "To Tara Smith, a lovely girl," in a child's unsteady hand. In Abbotsford these days, sunflowers are at once a memorial to a fallen friend and a painful reminder that her murderer—a brutal sociopath who has haunted an entire community—remains very much at large.

The search for the so-called Abbotsford Killer has turned into one of the most bizarre manhunt in Canadian history. And it has played this once-peaceful Fraser Valley community, 26 km southeast of Vancouver, into a national nightmare. Last week, as schools emptied for spring break,

police reminded residents, especially students, to remain vigilant, to travel in groups and to avoid putting themselves in "compromising situations" throughout the city. Many people refused to be taking that advice to heart. "People are definitely more careful," Tara's uncle, Dean Fougere, told *Midweek*. "You won't see a whole lot of people on the streets at night. There is an atmosphere of paranoia and fear."

With well over 100 churches, Abbotsford, a conservative farming community of 110,000, is widely acknowledged as the capital of what some B.C. residents refer to as "the Bible Belt." It is the sort of place where at the ABC Family Restaurant, patrons sit off their heads in crime before eating their meals. "We have always been a solid, old-type community," says Pastor Peter Heidebrecht of the 3,000-member Northview Community Church. Adds Heidebrecht, who has connected Smith's family "These types of things happened in other places, not here."

But Abbotsford has changed in recent

Tara Smith's memorial, there is an atmosphere of fear

years, its population has soared as cash-strapped Vancouverites flee en masse in search of affordable housing. And while many longtime residents say their city's woes are exaggerated by the media, the boom has brought big-city problems: drugs, robberies, even armed standoffs. Now, the murder title of the *Abbotsford* Killer has brought U.S. tabloid TV shows such as *Hungry for Death*, *Edmund and American Journal* flocking to the city.

The murder that sparked all the scrutiny took place in the early hours of Oct. 14. After attending a party in nearby Surrey, Smith and her friend,

Misty Cockerill, also 16, caught a ride back with friends, who dropped the pair off near Cockerill's home. What occurred next remains sketchy, but at 9:00 a.m., a dazed Cockerill staggered into a local hospital with a flu-swollen head wound that required heavy surgery. Three hours later, a fisherman discovered Smith's naked body floating in the nearby Vedder River, an autopsy revealed that she had drowned, after being beaten and sexually assaulted. (Cockerill has since resumed under police protection in an undisclosed location.)

A teenage girl's sex killer is still at large



Composite of suspect, missing police

a reward for the killer's capture swollen to \$40,000. And, as many suspect it would, the Abbotsford Killer again calls police, mentioning them for a fourth time in 16 hours.

That was the last police were to hear from their elusive suspect for more than six weeks. In December, they arrested and charged

George Dwyer, 28, for a 1994 sexual assault in the city. Dwyer, who bore a striking resemblance to the composite, was also considered a strong suspect in the Smith murder, police said. But in late January, DNA samples cleared Dwyer of Smith's murder—as well as the 1994 sexual assault. Baffled, police announced that they now thought the killer had probably fled the area. They were wrong.

Just 11 days later, on the afternoon of Feb. 17, Mike Grecco, a producer with local radio station CK6A, received a strange call on a request line. An unidentified man instructed him to check the station's news camera on the back parking lot. What he saw was the 1994 homicide from Smith's grave sitting on the hood of the black Ford Escort. Scratched into the granite were obscenities and threats. "Misty you're smart," read one. "I'm still out there," another. "I'm definitely back on my feet," recalled Grecco last week. "It just doesn't get much sicker than that."

But the Abbotsford Killer had more tricks in store. Two days later, he called police, this time from a pay phone at local Rotary Stadium. Within minutes, nine crates containing weapons and again the suspect escaped. Then, at about 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 22, a wrench was thrown through the window of a house belonging to a family unconnected to the case. With it was a note containing more threats. Police will not reveal the contents, but say the act was undoubtedly the handiwork of the Abbotsford Killer.

Meanwhile, local martial arts schools are enjoying increased enrollment, some retailers are doing a booming business on personal alarm clocks and batons, and an Abbotsford car company is in a hurry to sell rides to women after 11 a.m. For all of that, some young residents refuse to be intimidated. "I'm not going to let this psycho run my life," quipped 14-year-old J.J., who declined to give her full name as she sat on the sidewalk with a girlfriend last week. "I also see precautions but I'm not going to be freaked out just because he's on his loose."

For a teenager, it was perhaps an understandable response. On the part of the slain girl, an amount of meekness is too great. "I'm afraid that if these things are not going to be enough," Heather Fougere told *Midweek* last week, her police scanner quaking in the background. "And every time I hear the radio news I'm afraid that he'll try to get attention by attacking someone else. With someone like this, this probably won't be the last he killed—and I'm sure it won't be the last."

SCOTT STEELE

Anthony Wilson-Smith

Backstage Ottawa

The Jan Brown factor

In a life of every political party, there comes a time when its members must decide whether they would rather be right all the time, or be in power. It arrived for the Progressive Conservatives in 1983 when they elected Brian Mulroney leader, and began effectively courting votes in Quebec for the first time. It happened in the provincial Parti Québécois in 1970, when it put aside sovereignty as its principal goal in the election campaign and promised, instead, "good government." On the other hand, the federal New Democratic Party would rather claim to be good than to govern. But for federal Liberals, whose chief notion of policy is to believe that to govern is to choose—

they choose, above anything else, to govern.

Now, it is the Reform party's turn. When 18 months ago, after a bitter campaign, it was only as this fall, Canadians will face another federal election. When that happens, Preston Manning's party will lay some credible claims of achievement. Reform MPs have collectively measured in their performance in the House of Commons, and drawn debate on deficit reduction and an appropriate response to Quebec's votes to secede.

But Reformers, many of them disenchanted of former Tories, learned too well from that previous political life. They cannot shake the image that there are really just two kinds of Reformers: those who are boundless in rage to church, and those who use it to go back hunting. Like the old-time Tories, they are masterful at the art of carrying their weapons, and their shooting toward Mr. Brown, Jim Stelm, Stephen Harper, Keith Martin and Deborah Grey are bright, intelligent, personable and cheerful. Many of the others are, well, not. The trouble is that with the exception of Grey, these five have expressed more reservations about party policies lately, and three of them—Brown, Stelm and Harper—say they may not even run again in the next election.

For Reformers, the case of Brown should be especially troubling. At the end of last week, she was in Ottawa, but in self-imposed seclusion, avoiding reporters and

most of her fellow caucus. She is, she said at the time, "a very private person, but she's breathing space" while she ponders her future. That comes in the wake of a stormy mid-March caucus meeting in which Brown, Stelm and several other MPs were verbally roughed up after suggesting that Reform abandon some extreme positions and make more of an effort to expand its base of support. "All I was trying to do," she said, "is express the notion that politics is all about relationships and communication."

Brown personifies her own notion. When she first came to Ottawa, her outgoing manner, spiked blond hair and fondness for wearing black cocktail-style dresses to the House of Commons marked her for immediate notice—and some mockery. Since then, she has not changed much, except slightly—and appeared as an MP earnestly.

Personally confident, articulate and a maverick choice in an annual poll by the weekly *Mac* Times as the most popular Reform MP, she has been slightly—and appeared as an MP earnestly. Personally confident, articulate and a maverick choice in an annual poll by the weekly *Mac* Times as the most popular Reform MP, she has been slightly—and appeared as an MP earnestly.

In most circles, that kind of behavior is usually regarded as odd, and for that matter, good politics. Canadians instinctively vote for politicians who offer hope, not hectoring. Which raises the obvious question, if Reform cannot keep its best and brightest MPs heading into the next election, how can it keep the interest of other Canadians?

Finding common ground in Quebec



Beauchard flanked by Quebec business leaders moves towards major economic reform

At the outset, success appeared highly improbable, if not downright impossible. Quebec Premier Jacques Beauchard, as yet another effort at building bridges, had gathered the cream of the province's fractured post-independence society for a three-day conference in a Quebec City hotel. There were 84 participants in all, sleek corporate executives, fiery trade unionists, bank presidents and student leaders, farmers and feminists, actors and aboriginals, doctors, welfare workers—every a sliver of a politician. What the premier wanted from the diverse—and divided—crowd was broad agreement on how to avert Quebec's increasingly jagged economic plight. And much to his own, and almost everyone else's surprise, that is largely what he got. "It was tough and got for a while," a smiling and clearly content Beauchard confessed as the unlikely conferees drew to a close. "But in the end, we reached our common sense. Quebec is the winner tonight."

It was an opinion that was shared, with a notable exception or two, by virtually all those who played a role in the encounter as a windy blizzard overlooking the St. Lawrence River. "He didn't waste our time here," remarked Beauchard's long-time lieutenant Jacques Boivin, the outspoken federalist who earlier in the week had expressed grave doubts about the entire affair, going so far as to blithely remark that Beauchard and his Parti Québécois separatist agenda is largely responsible for the

province's economic woes. "I think it all worked out well," agreed Clifford Gauthier, a sovereigntist and president of the Quebec Federation of Labor, who, on the eve of the conference, threatened to walk out of the discussions if Beauchard's government cared in its business pressure to brutally slash spending—and jobs—in the search for financial stability.

In fact, what emerged over three days of talks, televised provincewide, as well as two lengthy sessions of bargaining behind closed doors, were the broad outlines of an unprecedented pact between business, labor and government. The unions won a commitment from Beauchard to delay the implementation of his government's plan to balance the province's books within two years. Now, it will stretch that program over four years, reducing this year's projected annual deficit of \$3.2 billion to zero by the turn of the century. In return, Quebec's powerful labor federations, strong sovereign supporters all, agreed to endorse a business-backed proposal to prohibit Beauchard's government, and all future Quebec governments, from incurring annual deficits, at least on current accounts. Beauchard accepted the arrangement, indicating last week that such legislation will be tabled in the national assembly later this spring. "We both win," said Ghislain Dubois, president of the

Conseil du Patronat, Quebec's largest employers' group. "The unions got a delay in spending cuts. We finally got what we have been after for years, a no-deficit law."

Beauchard also unveiled a series of steps that, in theory at least, could lead to large-scale economic reforms in a province whose accumulated debt stands at \$75 billion, at a per-capita debt of \$13,168—the highest in the country. What is more, Quebec has lagged behind every other province in moving to tackle its steadily mounting deficits and debt.

Beauchard last week announced the creation of three task forces, each chaired by prominent business personalities. Drummond magazine Jean Gauthier will oversee the work of a task force on job creation, National Bank of Canada president André Bélard will examine measures to invigorate Montreal's falling economy, while community activist Nancy Nolin will chair a study on reform of the province's social services network.

The work of all three task forces will be co-ordinated by Claude Beland, chairman of La Caixa Centrale Desjardins co-operative movement. They are scheduled to submit reports to yet another three-day economic summit on Oct. 30, which just happens to be the anniversary of the referendum that helped to propel Beauchard to the Quebec premiership. When he assumed that post in January, Beauchard indicated that his top priorities would revolve around restoring Quebec's finances and reconciling the province's post-independence divisions. Go both counts, the meeting in Quebec City can be viewed as a triumph for the premier.

If he were, it was a highly unusual endeavor, ground as much in carrying public favor as embarking on real reform. It may yet come to nothing precisely if the unions battle when the spending cuts take effect over the next four years. In addition, all those impatient New York credit-rating agencies will have to render their own judgments. But no even Quebec's corporate elite, no ally of the premier's separatist goals, were complaining last week. And that was no surprise in itself.

BARRY CAME in Quebec City

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IF THE THOUGHT OF COOKING DINNER MAKES YOU TIRED, MAYBE YOU'RE COOKING THE WRONG DINNER.

According to recent health studies, up to 80% of Canadian women are not getting enough iron in their diet. Iron is important for several reasons but its most vital function is carrying oxygen in the blood. Simply put, if you don't get enough iron, your muscles don't get enough oxygen and that can leave you feeling run down, lethargic, worn out.

You could take a supplement but nutrition experts agree it's better to get iron from food. As shown in the chart below, your body absorbs more iron from beef than from other foods like chicken, fish or even spinach.

And lean beef can help you meet your own needs

without contributing excess fat. The major source of fat in the Canadian diet comes from fats and oils that are added during processing and preparation.

For example, mostly because of the dressing, a meat dish called salad has more than three times the fat contained in a serving of au Jus steak (see chart). In fact, today's beef is so lean you can enjoy its great taste more often without feeling an ounce of guilt.

For more information about the iron and fat in your diet write to: The Beef Information Centre, Dept. 63, 2223 Agriplex Road, Suite 100, Mississauga, Ontario L5N 2K7.

Iron	Absorbed Iron
Cooked Beef (90 g)	.39 mg
Roasted Chicken (90 g)	.08 mg
Baked Fish (90 g)	.08 mg
Kale Spinach (250 mL)	.07 mg

Fat	
Roasted Tiresomen Sirloin Steak (90 g)	0 g
Large Breakfast Muffins (175 g)	16 g
Meat Dish Caesar Salad (300 mL)	19 g
Breakfast Cheese Quiche (125 g)	19 g

NOTHING ELSE IS BEEF.

Nutrition information: Beef per 90 g cooked serving beef: 17% RDA, chicken: 4% RDA, fish: 4% RDA, spinach: 3.7% RDA. Fat per 100 g serving: beef (cooked) 0% fat, 0% fat, 1.9 g, medium chole: 9.9 g.

Canada NOTES

A LINGERING SCANDAL

Armed with search warrants, RCMP officers raided provincial New Democratic Party offices in British Columbia looking for further evidence in a long-running scandal over charity money that was siphoned into NDP coffers in the 1970s and 1980s. The new warrants allege theft, fraud, misuse of charity funds and breach of trust by former party officials. Although no one has been charged, persons named in the warrants include onetime B.C. finance minister Dave Slaysh, Premier Glen Clark and he would not let the raid affect the timing of a provincial election, which he must call no later than this fall.

DRUNKENNESS DEFENCE

In a precedent-setting judgment, the Supreme Court of Canada lowered the threshold for accused individuals to use drunkenness in their defence. The ruling means that judges and juries need only find reasonable doubt about an accused's ability to form an intent to kill someone. Previously, they needed to find a reasonable doubt about a person's mental capacity to form the intent to kill.

A REPRIEVE FOR RCI

Canada's 51-year-old editorialial services radio service, which had been scheduled to be taken off the air on March 31, was a last-minute reprieve. Federal Heritage Minister Sheila Copps said that she had found \$16 million to keep Radio Canada Television running for another year. Copps also said that the budget minimum used to the agency's staff of 125 last December will now be re-evaluated.

CANINO TRIP CANCELLED

Former prime minister Jean Chrétien cancelled a planned trip to Singapore to assist, among other things, in the search for missing animals. Hanger's trip had driven the firm several Reform MPs, who said it made the party appear "racist."

A PROVINCE'S NEW NAME

In his government's inaugural speech, Newfoundland Premier Brian Tobin promised to introduce a constitutional amendment to rename the province Newfoundland and Labrador "to reflect the reality that it is made up of two equally important parts." Tobin also vowed to go ahead with reforms to reduce church control over the province's schools.



Homolka in 1993: the Crown needed her

Clearing the Homolka deal

The controversial 1993 plea bargain that allowed Karla Homolka to escape first-degree murder charges for her role in the sex slayings of two Ontario teenagers and a reduction of charges from Patrick Galtman, a retired appeal court judge who had been asked by the Ontario government to re-

view the deal. While describing the plea bargain as "distasteful," Galtman said it was the only way the Crown could make its case against Homolka's co-defendant, Paul Bernardo, who was sentenced to life in prison last year after being convicted of first-degree murder and seven other charges in the abduction, rape and killing of Leslie Mahaffy, 14, and Kristine French, 15. Homolka, who pleaded guilty to manslaughter in the killings, received a 10-year sentence on charges for lying against Bernardo. She will be eligible to apply for parole as early as 1997.

Galtman noted that videotapes depicting the brutal rape and torture of French and Mahaffy did not come into the Crown's hands until 15 months after they made the plea bargain. On a separate investigation, police are looking into the actions of Bernardo's former lawyer, Ken Murray, who came into possession of the videotapes just days before the plea bargain but who did not hand them over to the court until September, 1994. He also said it would be wrong to lay new charges related to a second assault against a victim known only as Jane Doe that Homolka did not mention at the time of the deal. Galtman's conclusions angered the Ontario-based organizers of a petition who had collected more than 300,000 signatures urging a public inquiry into the plea bargain. But the families of the two teenage victims had a more muted response. Kristine French's mother, Dorcas, said she supported the deal because "it was made prior to obtaining the videotapes."

APRIL'S EMPLOYE

Mulroney set to testify

Quebec Superior Court Judge André Rochon ruled that former prime minister Brian Mulroney must face questioning in a pre-trial hearing over his \$50-million libel suit against the RCMP and the federal government.

Mulroney filed his suit in November, one month after the RCMP and the federal justice department had claimed him by signature in internet documents that he was part of a kick-back scheme in the \$1.2-billion purchase of 21,000 jobs for his Canada in 1989. Mulroney will be questioned in a Montreal courtroom by federal lawyers during an "examination for discovery" procedure

on April 17, 19 and 20. In the rest of Canada, such sessions are rarely held privately. But in Quebec that is no longer the case, and Rochon said that Mulroney should be questioned in the presence of the news media and the public. Mulroney's lawyer, Jacques Boivin, said his client "doesn't want to express himself publicly" after his innocence in the Airbus affair.

Recognition for a hero

Guy Gen Remes LeBlanc awarded British peacekeeper Maj. Toby Bridger, 35, the Medal of Bravery for saving the life of his Canadian colleague, Maj. Bruce Hemwood, 38, last September in Croatia. Hemwood lost both his legs when the vehicle the two men were driving in hit a land mine. Bridger made sure the unconscious

Hemwood had not swallowed his tongue and bound his injured legs in a makeshift splint. He then broke through the window of the overturned vehicle and ran for help. An emotional Hemwood said of Bridger: "I probably would not be here today if it was not for him."



Bridger (left) with Hemwood rescue in Croatia

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The Canadians have landed for a perilous Haiti mission

Maj. Russell Hammy grabs one of the many telephones in his assigned command post and dispatches the newly formed Haitian National Police to arrest a gang of youths caught throwing rocks at a United Nations truck. "Anything that happens in the country, I have to know about it," he says. "This country is, in a way, going out." As chief of current operations at the UN's Haiti headquarters, Hammy, a 36-year-old native of Winnipeg, controls the nerve center for the entire country. Starting this week, he will have more company: Two Hercules C130 aircraft and five Airbus A320s will deposit the bulk of 750 troops promised by Ottawa to join Hammy and others already on the ground in Port-au-Prince. It is a delicate mission that was barely debated at home but puts Canadians on the front lines of attempts to bolster Haiti's fledgling democracy.

It is not a pretty job. A violence-torn on Hammy's belt cracks to life with an update on a corpse that a UN civilian team happened upon earlier that day. "The locals had a man beaten and stomped around, who they were going to execute for the murder," he says. "Violence is common in a land where the population still believes that security forces are there to protect themselves, not the people. But taking the number of vigilante killings as a barometer of the UN's success in Haiti, Hammy insists there has been progress. "The number of murders we hear of is down to about one a day. There were four or five a day when I arrived last summer," he says. "The atmosphere has gone from 'no confidence' to 'some



Female with aphasia (left), roadside vendor; male A320

confidence." It is the logic of the hopeful, who choose to see the glass as half full rather than four-fifths empty. In the fall of 1994, after 22,000 American troops restored Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power, there was not a drop of hope in that glass. Today, at least, the outright anarchy and indiscriminate slaughter that Haitians knew during the three years of Aristide's exile have ended.

Now in Washington, withdrawn its final troops, Canada has taken the lead, quickly and quietly committing \$44 million to ensure an extension of the UN military presence in Haiti for an additional four months. With virtually no debate—Parliament was not in session—Canada agreed to take command in an effort to prevent a slide back into turmoil following the Feb. 29 and all the American deployment. "We've given Haiti a bit of a window of opportunity," says Canadian Col. Bill Fulton, outgoing chief of staff of the previously American-led UN mission. Now, Canadian Brig. Gen. Pierre Daigle, a veteran of the Oka crisis and of Canadian deployment in Bosnia, will head a 1,300-strong foreign force, reduced from the 8,000 UN troops in the country since March, 1995. Many of the Canadians come from the 1st Royal 22nd Regiment (Vardens) based in Valcartier, Que. Nearly 300 members of Edmonton's 49th Tactical Helicopter Squadron will serve a quick mission combat force.

Although members wear the UN's blue beret, the Canadian con-

tempting to win votes with the vote, especially after his March 35 announcement of two new aid projects in Haiti worth \$5.6 million.

Préval, a 58-year-old agronomist and an old friend of Aristide's, had first stopped in Washington, where he also lobbied vigorously for increased aid to his nation. The poorest in the Western Hemisphere, Préval announced he would provide four of 38 state-run enterprises, a move aimed at freeing up \$63 million in frozen U.S. aid funds previously earmarked for Haiti. The country sorely needs it. According to the Washington-based Agency for International Development, one in eight Haitian children dies before the age of five. Only 25 per cent of households have toilet facilities and 38 per cent have electricity. The main form of political unrest facing UN troops is the ubiquitous roadblock, where masses of people stop traffic until a politician arrives on the scene. "You have to understand these people," says Capt. Genevieve Prévost. "The only way they have to protest is to stop something that actually works." Not surprisingly, foreign investment is at a standstill, hampering attempts to jump-start the economy.

Yet the country is calm—by Haitian standards. And that lends some to believe this year will be a turning point economically. And last year, with its series of free elections, was a breakthrough politically. "As bad as it is, at least we can breathe—and talk," says Jean-Yves Uribe, editor of the leftist *Créole* weekly *Libète*. Uribe notes that the flow of electricity has increased recently from two hours a day to as much as 20 hours. Authorities project that it could rise to 20 hours by the fall. "At least we have reached a point where we have stability in the state machinery. Now we can begin to say: That beginning is due to the U.S.-led intervention that expelled former Gen. Raoul Cédras after a reign of terror in which the army and militia murdered an estimated 3,000 people between 1991 and 1994.

The 22,000 American troops steadily dwindled. First a 9,000-strong multinational force took over, and it gave way to the UN force. President Bill Clinton's goals, say critics of the policy, were maintained, allowing his troops to make a heroic entrance and an election-gone bad with missions—however limited—accomplished. The mandate to create a "safe and secure" environment, restore Aristide to power and oversee free and fair elections was largely achieved, say UN spokesmen. But they admit the final goal, that of

urgent operations outside the UN (Spanish) streets, due to an eleven-hour diplomatic drama mounted by Clinton. Bent on punishing Haiti for maintaining relations with Vénice, before demanding that the Security Council rebuke the proposed 1,300-member commitment to only 1,500—assigned mainly from Pakistan and Bangladesh. By offering to pay for 750 troops separately, Canada broke the deadlock and saved the UN mission from before the mandate expired on Feb. 29. Clinton also managed to cut the term of the deployment to four months from six and stipulated that it not be extended further. There are now just three months left to the much-heralded "window"—and a new regime, struggling through democratic government for the first time in Haiti's 200-year history of independence, hopes to keep it open.

Last week, President René Prévost paid a grateful visit to Prime Minister Jean Chastelain in Ottawa, and then visited Montreal—some of 60,000 Haitians. The timing was perfect for Chastelain and his minister for international cooperation, Pierre Philpoteau, a candidate in the March 25 by-election in the Montreal constituency of Papineau/St. Michel, which is a riding of 124,000 Haitian-Canadian immigrants. Reform party critics accused Philpoteau of at





WORLD **BRITAIN**

A disturbing link to the 'mad cow' disease

The announcement sparked commentators of British beef and sent shock waves through the nation's cattle industry. Last week, in response to the findings of a 15-member scientific committee, the British government conceded for the first time the possibility of a link between so-called mad cow disease, which kills cattle by damaging their brains and central nervous systems, and a fatal human form of the malady. With the consumption of infected beef cited as the cause, sales of the meat plummeted in Britain and imports of British beef swiftly imposed bans. Worse still for Britain's cattle farmers, the country's main herd of 12 million beef and dairy cows may have to be destroyed at a catastrophic cost of almost \$42 billion. "This is a disaster," said Chris Wood, who keeps 85 head of cattle on his farm in northwest England. "It will have a devastating effect."

The political and economic fallout was apparent immediately: countries from South Africa and Japan to New Zealand and Singapore joined most of Britain's European Union partners in halting imports of British beef. Canada does not import British beef, and Canadian cattle industry spokesmen said there is no threat to domestic beef supplies from mad cow disease, formerly known as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). They noted that in 1992 the federal agriculture department de-

stroyed more than 360 cattle which originated from British stock, after the disease appeared in one of the animals. "We took the most cautious approach possible, complete eradication, and we took a lot of heat for it," said Dennis Laycraft, executive director of the Calgary-based Canadian Cattlemen's Association. "In hindsight, it was the right way to go."

The disease currently affects an estimated 12,250 cattle in Britain, down from almost 30,700 in 1992 when the epidemic was at its peak. It was introduced to that country's beef and dairy cows in the early 1980s through the practice of using non-edible sheep parts in livestock feed. Some of these parts, including bones, came from sheep infected with a form of the disease known as scrapie, which carries the actual virus into their skulls. But the symptoms in cattle are different: in the latter stages of the disease, the animal staggers and collapses before dying.

The fact that the disease appeared to have travelled from sheep to cattle sparked a debate in Britain about the possibility that it could also be transmitted from cattle to humans. But many scientists, along with government ministers, rejected that notion

Most responsible in London: a nation's entire beef and dairy industry is devastated

because people had eaten infected sheep for hundreds of years without contracting the human form of the illness, which is known as Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD). It is an extremely rare disorder—there are as few as 25 cases a year in Canada—that can be hereditary, or it can be picked up from external sources. When symptoms first appear, the victim may seem confused or disoriented. As the disease progresses, it causes a loss of muscle control, and can lead to twitching and spasms, an inability to walk, coma and death, usually within 12 months.

Last week, the British government confirmed what many Britons had long feared—a possible link between rising in fatal beef and contracting CJD. The government's own Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee announced for the first time that the deaths of eight people from the disease were likely caused by meat infected beef in the late 1980s. "There remains no scientific proof that BSE can be transmitted to man by beef," British Health Secretary Stephen Dorrell told the House of Commons. "But the committee has concluded that the most likely explanation at present is that these cases are linked to exposure to BSE."

British officials insisted that scientists will likely have to study the disease for at least two more years before they can determine definitively whether the disease can be transmitted to humans from cattle. And that could mean a prolonged nightmare for the British cattle industry, which has already seen local consumption drop seven times over the past decade due to BSE scares. About half of Britain's schools have banned beef in student meals in the past year. Last week, normally popular steak houses were deserted and British bookshelves filled their display shelves with pork, chicken and other non-beef products.

At the very least, the beef industry appears to be facing one or two years of uncertainty while awaiting the results of more scientific research. At worst, government advisers could recommend destruction of the entire British herd, which would be an almost unimaginable disaster for many in the industry, particularly the 130,000 farm families who raise beef cattle for a living. "This very sad and frightening," said Welsh cattleman Richard Howells. "People are panicking. If they decide to slaughter all our cattle, the implications are astronomical. They can't just do away with an industry." But, by the same token, the government and its scientific advisers could recommend further public bans, or drawing new international sanctions.

BY ARCY JENSEN with correspondents' reports

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A pattern seems to be emerging. We add a car to the Infiniti line, it wins awards. Apparently, the I30 is no exception. Case in point, these latest honours bestowed by J.D.P.C. The 1995's stabilizers, the J30, won the same award in 1993, and then went on to be chosen Best Luxury Car in the J.D. Power Survey on Initial Quality in 1995. Incidentally, Infiniti came first overall as a carline in that same survey. Over the years, both the Q45 and the Q45 have also won their fair share of recognition. If you want to know more about Infiniti, call 1-800-381-4762 for a free product brochure. As for winning awards, we realize that's only one measure of a car. For another, perhaps more compelling, we highly recommend a test drive.

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Flexing democratic muscle in China's face

A wave of words between Beijing and Washington reached a shrill pitch in the run-up to Taiwan's historic exercise in democracy. As Chinese forces launched a third round of March military exercises in the Taiwan Strait last week, U.S. officials in Washington on which all Tai-
 wan islanders would witness the weekend arrival of a reinvigorated fleet. But the mood was cheerful among the busy staffers in the

chaired Washington lobbying office of Taiwan's opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP). Free days before Taiwan's first direct presidential election, which recently rebuffed candidates seeking closer ties with China, testimony to the DPP mission's progress in promoting Taiwan's independence passed from a TV set tuned to the U.S. House of Representatives. Speaker Ileana Ros-Lehtinen leaned towards the DPP's denial of China's insistence that Taiwan is a Chinese province. Two hours later, a bipartisan 85 per cent of House members supported a resolution that "the United States should assist in defending Taiwan in the event of an invasion, missile attack or blockade by the People's Republic of China."

In practice, the House resolution is only advisory. It forces no commitment of American troops to Taiwan. Nor, stressed U.S. officials, was there any change in Washington's pursuit of strong political and economic relations with China. The United States, in common with Canada and most other governments—including Taiwan—formally agrees that Taiwan is part of China. At the same time, Washington maintains "an official relations" with Taiwan. That dual diplomatic policy attracts Beijing, which protests that America's relations with Taiwan is far worse on the official. It looks as if likely impediment to Washington's efforts to repair U.S.-China relations, darkening future discourse between the global superpower

and the world's most populous nation.

Antagonism intensified when President Bill Clinton, under pressure from Congress, elevated Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui on a private U.S. visit last June. Lee, returned to office on Saturday with a 56 per cent of the vote, has used lip service to a China-Taiwan unification policy that at the same time, he has angered Beijing by

seeking separate relations with other governments and pushing for UN membership. On the eve of China's elections, which began by test-firing untested missiles close to Taiwan's main airports, Shm Guofang, China's foreign ministry spokesman, said they would be useful not

REPORT FROM
WASHINGTON
BY CARL HOLLING



Lee: Taipei protest against Chinese exercises. Cold War

Taiwan's election puts new stresses on Sino-U.S. relations



only in strengthening China's defense, "but also in stamping out efforts to create two Chinas—or one China, one Taiwan."

Celebrating his victory as the first direct election of a leader in any Chinese country, Lee said, "The door of democracy has been opened wide in Taiwan." In the face of China's pressure tactics, only 35 per cent of voters supported the two candidates promising closer ties with the mainland. The results, in fact, left many Taiwanese wondering how the Chinese would react. "I think they are a very sensitive people," said lawyer Chu Chang, who represents 200 Taiwanese companies that do business on the mainland. "Lee will have a very hard four years to come." Like many others, she was concerned that Beijing will feel threatened by Taiwan's demonstration of its independence.

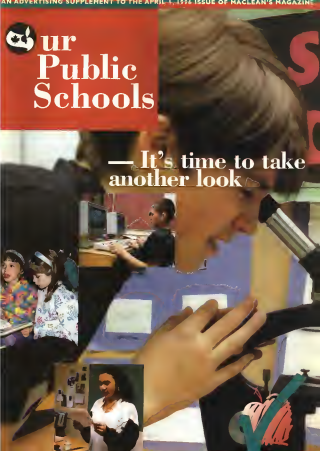
That is a view echoed in Canada by Columbus Leo, a Toronto computer programmer who helped lead a band of 11 Taiwan-born Canadians in an anti-China march in Washington last week. His native land, says Leo, "is already de facto an independent country." Aida Leo, who also helped organize pro-Taiwan demonstrations in Toronto, "We hope Canada can take a stronger position to support and protect Taiwan's democracy."

The United States, after its active support of Taiwan, is moving slowly to patch up relations with China. Defence Secretary William Perry and counterpart Chi Haotian indefinitely postponed a scheduled April meeting. But Secretary of State Warren Christopher arranged to meet next month with Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen in the Netherlands. And Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin, speaking in Hong Kong, said the United States aims to renew China's "most favored nation" trading status when that comes up for annual June review in Congress.

Still, pro-Taiwan congressional sentiment carries weighty influence, especially during the current election year. U.S. authorities agreed to supply Taiwan with Stinger anti-aircraft missiles and targeting systems for GDB-36 jet fighters to be supplied under an earlier deal. That decision, and the belligerent language on Capitol Hill spoke leader in Beijing than Washington's bid for better relations with China. According to American of trying to obstruct "the reunification of the motherland," Shen declared, "Taiwan is China's sacred territory and is not a U.S. protectorate."

Some analysts warn that the weeks of angry language and military posturing could signal the start of another Cold War. But cold is better than hot, suggested state department spokesman Glynis Dineen. "Maybe the best that the war can restore a view of spokespersons," said Dineen, "and doesn't go beyond that."

With LUCY MORRILL in Taipei



ur Public Schools

— It's time to take another look

by LUCY MORRILL



2

Sabesan is a Grade 10 student at Thomas L. Kennedy Secondary School in Mississauga, Ontario. He's only lived in Canada for five years, but he has a good command of

English, and he appears to understand most of the concepts in math. While he's obviously bright, he's not doing well in school. His teachers have recommended that he meet with a tutor after school, but he's not keen on the idea. What his teachers don't know is that Sabesan is working an average of 43 hours a week. And while his

case may be the extreme, about half of his classmates are in a similar situation—trying to balance the demands of school against those of a 'part-time' job.

Ken Dryden, the former NHL hockey player and lawyer who was Youth Commissioner for Ontario in the 1980s, met Sabesan when he was researching his latest book *In School*. Dryden spent a year with the students and teachers at Thomas L. Kennedy, and his book, which appeared on the shelves last fall, will go

a long way toward getting a better face on the debate about Canadian public school education.

So far, that debate hasn't been particularly helpful. Writes Dryden, "Trained into TV/newspaper format, the problems of education become a story of when and how, a story without why... What is the problem? How do I deal with it? That the real story lies in the why. Why does a school system matter? Why does everyone need to learn and know how to learn?"

The Canadian Teachers' Federation, representing 250,000 classroom teachers who teach Canada's 5.5 million elementary and secondary students, thinks it's time to take another look at public school education, to get at some of the why Dryden talks about in his new book, to correct some of the myths that, until now, have clouded the debate about our schools, and to turn the monologue about public school education into a dialogue. We're prepared to listen, and we hope you are too.



Why public schools? Why our concern?

Canada's public schools and publicly funded separate schools—those that teach in English and those that teach in French—are the expression of our society's commitment to provide members of the next generation of Canadians with the opportunity to learn about our world, develop to their full potential and find the resources within themselves to shape their own future.

Those are fine ideals, and they've sustained a school system in which Canadians can take pride. They're ideals that have helped to fashion a society that is tolerant and caring and generous and prosperous. But those ideals, like our public and separate schools, are in jeopardy. And if we aren't careful, we could leave our children with a very different kind of Canada—one where narrow self-interest comes at the expense of the collective good. Where communities are divided. A society of the privileged few, and

of the many who live on the margin. We're already seeing signs of that kind of Canada. And that's why we're concerned.

Myths that undermine confidence

Public schools have been the target of a lot of criticism. You hear it from business leaders, you hear it from politicians, you hear it from academics. Our schools are failing us, they say. The high school drop-out rate is a disgrace. Kids can't read. Canada is falling far behind its international competitors. We need to provide parents with choice—like charter schools, or voucher systems that allow parents to direct their tax dollars to private institutions.

Let's take a look at some of those criticisms, beginning with the drop-out rate.

For years, Statistics Canada had been calculating the drop-out rate based on data gleaned from school attendance records. To put it simply, students who did not graduate from the same school they entered three or four years earlier were termed drop-outs. What about students who transferred to other schools? What about students who "stopped-out" and resumed their studies a year or two later? According to Stats Canada's old method, they were drop-outs, and by that calculation, Canada had a drop-out rate of 32 per cent.

But in 1993, Statistics Canada began using other methods of data collection, and those gave a far different picture. Data from the 1991 census, as well as from surveys of the Canadian labour force and school leavers undertaken the same year, show a drop-out rate of 18 per cent. And with improved census tracking methods, even the figure of 18 per cent may be higher than what's actually happening in our schools. When you consider that upwards of five per cent of the students who enter Canadian public schools every year have severe physical or mental



3



disabilities that make it next to impossible for them to successfully complete school, Canada's disastrous drop-out rate is a myth.

What about literacy? A 1991 Statistics Canada survey of adult literacy showed that 62 per cent of Canadians between the ages of 16 and 69 have highly readable reading skills, and can be considered fully literate. Three-quarters of Canadian adults under the age of 45 are fully literate, but that is true of only half of the people over the age of 45. In other words, the younger the age, the higher the literacy rate. Canada has a literacy problem, but it is largely a problem among older Canadians. The claim that large numbers of school-aged children cannot read is a myth.

Ask Canadians who have children in school what they think about their kids' education, about their teachers, about their community schools, and most



they were in school.

But the myths about public school education are eroding public confidence and public commitment to an educational system that is everyone's responsibility. Increasingly, you hear education being talked about as if it were just another commodity—something that should be opened up to the marketplace and purchased by consumers. Would a market-driven approach to education, based on competition, produce a better student, a better product? Let's take another look.

will tell you that they're quite satisfied. So are the students themselves. According to a 1993 Statistics Canada survey of high school graduates, 80 per cent said their high school courses had been useful, 79 per cent said most of their classes had been interesting, and 81 per cent were satisfied with the range of courses that were available to them while

Public education— committed to equity, committed to change

The marketplace has little to do with equity. In a competition-based market, the people who have the most resources are the people who can afford to buy the best products and services. In the marketplace, the poor, the disabled, the disadvantaged make do with what they can afford, or they do without.

A market approach to education is bad news for a society that is intent on making the best use of its human resources. Should children be denied equality of opportunity because they have disabilities or because they come from lower-income or middle-class families? Is this the way to optimize the talents of all of our citizens?

Canadians have traditionally rejected the idea that market forces should be the determining factor in areas such as public education and health care. Rather, they are both as areas of collective responsibility. Canadians have chosen to provide broad-based, equitable funding to public institutions that have a mandate to provide quality services to everyone.

Education, for example, is not merely the responsibility of parents, but of all Canadians, whether they have children of their own or not. In a democracy, where the quality of the government is largely dependent upon the quality of an informed citizenry, this makes a lot of sense.

We rely on our schools to welcome students of all abilities, income levels and ethnic backgrounds. While some publicly supported school systems are organized along religious or language lines, all of our public schools reflect the rich diversity of Canadian society. They mirror the communities they serve. Within them, our children learn not only how to read and write and use the latest computer technology, but also how to get along with people who are different from themselves. They learn how to appreciate those differences, how to resolve conflicts, how to work and play together, how to become good



citizens. And they learn this from teachers who are, above all, agents of change.

Change is an everyday fact of life in public school education. Just compare today's schools with those of a generation ago. For example, in Vancouver, 48 per cent of the students speak English as a second language. At four of the Vancouver board's 18 secondary schools, more than 70 per cent of the students are

studying English as a second language. In nearby Richmond, the number of students whose language is other than English increased from 300 to 9,000 students in just five years. Schools in other urban centres across the country are facing similar situations.

While the face of the public school has changed, so has the curriculum. Today, we're counting on our schools to provide many of the things that were once provided by the family or the church, or that altogether were just provided at all. In addition to



teaching our kids the three Rs, we expect our schools to integrate students with special needs, promote anti-racism, prepare students for the workplace, make them technologically literate, educate them about AIDS, counsel them on how to prevent violence and show them how to work for environmental conservation. A generation ago, many of these issues didn't even exist.

Supporting what needs to be supported, changing what needs to be changed

Canadians have long held the belief that public school education gave everyone an equal footing, an equal chance at success. Healthy, vibrant, high quality public schools are the foundation of our democracy. We need to realize that, in making decisions about

our public schools, we'll ultimately be deciding what kind of country we want for ourselves and our children.

There's no question that our schools can be improved, but those improvements need to be based on a common commitment to the common good. They need to be based on fact, not myth. And they need to be sustained with a broad-based, equitable funding system that reflects the fact that public education is everyone's responsibility, and that having access to a quality education is everyone's birthright.

Since public school education is a collective responsibility, our schools must continue to be publicly accountable—through elected school boards and boards of trustees that are there to ensure that our schools serve the common good, as opposed to the special interests of a few.

In assessing how our public school systems are performing today, let's be mindful of the myths about public education. And let's not be taken in by the promise of the quick fix.

Standardized tests are an example. The advocates of national testing point to a need to find an objective measure of student and school performance



across Canada. These comparisons, they say, will lead to changes that enable students to develop the necessary skills to compete in the global marketplace.

National tests may provide some indication of the basic skills level of a proportion of students. But they're not likely to explore the broader mission of public education. A particular group of students may achieve exceptionally high scores in mathematics, for

example. But does this really tell us the whole story? Have those students developed any sense of what it means to be a good citizen? Do they have any sense of ethics or respect for others? Have they developed a sense of aesthetic appreciation? Do they possess self-confidence? What about their character?

These qualities may be next to impossible to measure in a standardized test, but, in the long-term, they'll probably have much more to do with a person's ability to lead a productive and happy life than an exceptionally high score in math. And they're the kinds of qualities that we expect our public school systems to foster.

Public education is something of a high wire act—finding a way to accommodate a whole range of societal demands, while at the same time, making sure that the welfare of the student remains squarely at the centre of things.

There are demands from the business community, for example, that our public schools do a better job of preparing students for work in a highly competitive, global economy. There's an obvious connection between education and jobs. But, economic competitiveness depends on a lot of things—new technology, wise investments, on-the-job training

programs, effective management, an effective industrial strategy and the ability of our economy to create jobs, to name but a few. To finger our schools for the real or perceived failings of the Canadian economy is a simplistic attempt at finding a scapegoat for problems that are far more complex.

Canadian teachers—partners in change

In his book, *A School*, Ken Dryden says, "Good teachers don't teach subjects, they teach people." The Canadian Teachers' Federation shares that belief. And it's one of our concerns for people—young people like Sabarus, who are in danger of missteering their future—that we're committed to making a system that we believe already to be good, much better, for everyone.

We know that public education isn't meeting the needs of all students, especially aboriginal students. We know that minority groups continue to be under-represented as teachers and role models at the front of our classrooms. We know that some students who go





on to college and university have trouble performing at those levels. We know that an 18 per cent drop-out rate is unacceptable. And we know that if these and other challenges facing our schools are to be effectively addressed, all of us—teachers, parents, students, government decision makers, citizens—will need to work together to find the answers to the why.

Changes to our public schools shouldn't be driven by myths, or, for that matter, by attempts at fiscal restraint masquerading as educational reform. Improvements should be based on principles that have to do with the kind of education we want for our children, the kind of education that doesn't simply prepare students to fit into a predetermined future, but that gives them the courage and the wisdom to help fashion their own future.

If we begin to treat education as a commodity or a product—as opposed to a process that is essential to the well-being of our democratic society—we run the risk of losing control over our own future. The responsibility for educating our young people is a collective responsibility—we all have an interest, and a say, in seeing that our schools reflect our society's values. We all have an interest in making sure the next generation of Canadians has a sense of community, a sense of

commitment to one another and to Canada.

It is that sense of common commitment that binds this country together. Canadians have invested heavily in their public school systems, and that investment has made us the envy of the world. Schools are ours, open to everyone, serving everyone, giving us a sense of belonging to a community that's rich in its diversity. Schools are a reflection of our commitment to one another instead of second guessing that commitment, perhaps it's time to take another look. ■

Thank you for listening to our thoughts.
Now, we'd like to hear yours.

Please write to:

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E-Mail info@ctf-cc.ca



COLLECTING THE GUNS

As soldiers buried the 16 children who died with their teacher in a school-mass shooting rampage at a Scottish primary school on March 13, the British government announced a firearms amnesty. It allows gun owners to hand in legally held or unwanted weapons without penalty.

ISRAEL RESPONDS

Israeli troops destroyed the homes of six families of Palestinian suicide bombers in response to recent explosions that killed 50 people in Israel. Officials said the families were killed to deter other young Palestinians from carrying out similar attacks on the understanding that, along with guaranteeing themselves martyrdom, their families would be provided for.

A FUGITIVE RECAPTURED

Police in Spain arrested Magued Al-Malek, a Palestinian who had fled Italy while on leave from a 30-year sentence for the hijacking of the Mediterranean cruise ship Achille Lauro in 1985. The United States had offered a \$2.6-million reward for the capture of Malek, 34, held primarily responsible for the murder of 69-year-old American tourist Leon Klinghoffer during the hijacking.

ZULU BLOODLETTING

The South African government is behind the carrying of weapons in the many parts of the country following from bloodletting in the Zulu heartland of KwaZulu-Natal, where more than 14,000 people have been killed since the mid-1980s.

DETECTING FROM IRAQ

Geri Nazar al-Khazri, a decorated hero who directed the Iraqi armed forces in the 1960-1968 invasion war, arrived in Amman, Jordan, becoming one of the highest ranking officers to defect from the highest ranking officers to defect from Saddam Hussein. He returned to Iraq after receiving what he believed was a pardon were killed by Iraqi militias.

A PM FOR SWEDEN

Göran Persson, a former finance minister known for his headline approach to budget overspending, became Sweden's prime minister after receiving the seal of approval from parliament. "Happy? No, but I feel responsible," Persson had reporters after the parliamentary vote.



DISCO DISASTER: Rescuers carry a victim from the charred remains of Manila's Disco Pub where 152 people died as fire swept through the building, packed with Philippine students celebrating the end of the academic year. In the aftermath, authorities closed two discotheques suspected of being firetraps and cradled down on cars near claiming to be grieving relatives of victims in order to collect burial payments offered by the government.

Now, will Perot join the race?

The U.S. presidential campaign moved into a new phase as a far-right politician were officially announced Senator Majority leader Bob Dole of the support he needs to carry the Republican party banner into the Nov. 5 election. With Dole challenging Democratic incumbent Bill Clinton, it only remained to be seen who else would join the race for the presidency. Texas millionaire Ross Perot, who ran in 1992, said he would represent his newly formed Reform



Dole, GOP incumbent

Party in the election if party members went him to. And broadcaster Pat Buchanan, Dole's only remaining challenger for the Republican nomination, would not rule out the possibility of running as an independent. Since both appeal to right-wing voters, campaigns by either one would hurt Dole and boost Clinton's re-election chances. The early selection of the Republican candidate set the scene for heavy politicking as Capitol Hill as Dole and Clinton jockey for pre-election advantage.

An ambassador at the scene of the crime

Underlining U.S. support for a war crimes tribunal investigating atrocities in the former Yugoslavia, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Madeleine Albright, expressed horror as she visited a suspected mass grave site near the eastern Bosnian enclave of Srebrenica. A skeletal hand, parts of a spinal column and cranium, and a leg bone were clearly visible at the site in an area overrun by Bosnian Serb forces in July 1995. Referring to Bosnian Serb republic President Radovan Karadzic and his army commander, Gen. Ratko Mladic, both indicted for war crimes but so far not arrested, she said "Mladic and Karadzic need to know that their days of running around are numbered."

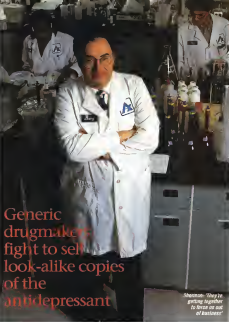
At war over Prozac

Barry Sherman is doing the verbal equivalent of a verbal prozac. The abrasive, brilliant and wildly litigious Sherman is riding at an incoherent, full-throttle pace that last week left him sitting on millions of beef and ground beef copies of Prozac. The name means nothing until it is translated from pharmaceutical speak to its brand name: Prozac. What Sherman cannot yet sell in Canada is his generic copy of the Godfather of antidepressants, the first mental health drug in the world to surpass the \$3-billion-a-year sales figure. And that's \$2.3 billion Canadian.

At issue is the color and shape of the gel caps. The half-green, half-buff "look," says Prozac's creator, U.S. pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly, is proprietary. Eli Lilly Canada Inc. is selling a permanent injunction against all Prozac look-alike generic copies. To Sherman, founder and chairman of generic heavyweight Apotex Inc., that is just the latest volley from the "court of additional firms that still dominate the Canadian market, as they do the world market, who are doing everything they can to prevent us from building a Canadian industry and saving money for the health care system, and the governments have done everything they can, starting with McKinsey, to help them."

Like Hollywood director Oliver Stone, following the trajectory of the magic bullet in the Kennedy assassination, Sherman has a room-temperature conspiracy theory. It leads him to a company called AllMed Pharmaceutical Inc. of Mississauga, Ont. AllMed, which started business on March 1, was born of the merger of two generic companies, Kental Inc. and SynCare Pharmaceutical Inc. In the prescription drug business, these two were known as "pseudopharmacies" for they were the offshoot of drug plants Upjohn and Hoffmann-La Roche. Their job was to take generic versions of their parents' brand-name drugs to market. Through AllMed, the two have joined forces and have brought in a third and equal partner, Glaxo Wellcome Inc., which had been licensing its products to Kental for generic copy sales. AllMed now markets the generic versions of all owners' patent drugs, and, under license, those of other big-name drug companies. It's one drug in all. The products are identical to the aspirator drugs.

This is all too much for Sherman, who has joined forces with his arch-enemy and chief generic drug rival, Leslie Dan, founder of Novopharm Ltd. Together the Toronto-based firms have taken



Generic drugmakers fight to sell look-alike copies of the antidepressant

Sherman: "We're getting together to force us out of business"

their case to the competition bureau in Ottawa. It is, they say, a scheme to squeeze them out. "Generic companies started some 25, 30 years ago, and we were ridiculed, mocked, criticized, taken to court," says Dan, who emigrated to Canada from Hungary in 1947 and started Novopharm in 1965. "Having gone through all this hardship, we have finally shown there is a generic market in Canada," says Dan. "And then these companies jump in as Johnny-come-latichs."

Johnny-come-late is more like it. Because the pseudo-generics are, effectively, the patentees, they can take a product to market before the expiry of a drug's patent. The true generics cannot. "You call it pre-emptiveness," says Nelson Sims, president of Eli Lilly Canada. "I would call it another marketing avenue," one, he adds, that is great for consumers. "It gives them a lower priced product sooner. That's competition." Counters Sherman: "They're getting together in a conspiracy to do every dirty trick they can to force us out of business." And when they're done that, Sherman predicts, AllMed will become inactive and prices will rise. "They

say they're trying to compete in the generic market, but it's a joke because they don't bring out a generic except because they know we're going to."

Both Lilly, president of the recently merged Pharmacia & Upjohn Canada Inc., chuckles when he hears the generic's lament. "It's rather like General Motors and Ford being worried that Honda will put them out of business," says Little, who also sits on the board of AllMed. Apotex and Novopharm Ltd., the country's two largest generics, control about 70 per cent of the generic market, which last year was worth approximately \$620 million. AllMed, says Little, has about a 10-per-cent market share. "The initial goal of AllMed was to protect the existing business," he says. "Neither Kental nor SynCare could survive as drug marketers on their own. What we hope to see is a true market for generics." Little maintains that AllMed will have a very tough job taking market share from Sherman and Dan, their firms have built powerful sales forces and tight connections with the community of pharmacists.

But AllMed's backers are themselves the equivalent of the biggest associations. Inevitably, their generic subsidiaries made marginal progress in the past. The product lines were relatively limited, and the sales expertise of the brand-name companies has always focused not on retail sales, but on the high-dollar end of the business—scholarship prescription-writing physicians. As provinces adopted rules of "interchangeability," requiring pharmacists to substitute cheaper generic versions on

capit in instances where a physician specifies otherwise, the generic manufacturers captured as increasing share of prescriptions. According to IMS Canada of Pointe Claire, Que., 34 per cent of prescriptions dispensed in Canada last year were for generic medicines. The Canadian Drug Manufacturers Association, a lobby group for generic manufacturers, says the knocked drug sell for, on average, 60 per cent less than the brand names. That is supported by IMS data, which shows that while the generics fill more than a third of prescriptions, they claim just 12 per cent of a \$6-billion industry.

The brand-name players want that back. The "soup de generic," says Sherman, is the Eli Lilly case. From the start, Canadian generics have been allowed to copy the look of brand-name products. The Prozac case could put an end to that. "The issue we believe is at stake," says Little's Sims, "is that consumers, some of whom are very sensitive to even small changes in their medica-

tion, should not be misled by copycat drugs that look alike but are not identical." Sims is not referring to the drug's "active ingredient," which is in the same or both generic and brand-name products, but the inactive ingredients. For example, some patients are lactose-intolerant, says Sims, "and one of our competitors has put lactose in their [fluoxetine] capsule. The issue is that patients and consumers deserve the right to know."

That, says Sherman, is "another element of nonsense," another "charade." All possible inactive ingredients are taken from a Health Protection Branch approval list, are present in trace amounts, and are documented for the benefit of nursing pharmacists. Some associations, including the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists, are concerned that not standardizing size, shape and color will lead to patient—and dispenser—confusion, which is not, says the CSH: "In the best interest of public health and safety." Says Sherman:

"If you go to someone's house and ask for an Aspirin, and they give you a green tablet, you're going to say that's not Aspirin. It's just to be witty, am I?"

Apotex is not the only Canadian generic awaiting the federal decision on whether Prozac by any name will always be identified by the green-and-buff look. Leslie Dan has his stock ready to ship, as does Nat-Pharm Inc., yet another generic player. Last week, Dan and Sherman, who are close enough to using one another as other pharmaceutical houses, agreed to order up all generic caps for one dosage of fluoxetine and all-buff for another. By week's end they were filing the drugs, and preparing to ship them in pharmacies across the country. In the meantime, consumers need not despair. Look-alike generic Prozac has, in fact, been available in Canada since Dec. 1 at 20 per cent below the brand-name price of about \$555 marketed by Pharmacia Inc. of Montreal. And just how did Pharmacia get away with it? It has been licensed to sell the buff by name other than Eli Lilly, which manufactures both generic and brand versions. The difference? One pill is stamped Pharmacia. All of which leads Barry Sherman's pre-emptive conspiracy theories.

Conversely, the bulk of Pharmacia's business is in the same as Apotex and Novopharm—the creation and manufacture of in-house copyright generic formulations. A victory for Eli Lilly would be good news for Pharmacia's fluoxetine sales. A loss for Lilly would be good news for Pharmacia's broader business. "On the one hand, I want Lilly to win," says Jonathan Goodfellow, business development manager for the company but father-in-law to 1983. "On the other hand, I want them to lose. I'm taking Prozac now just so I can figure it out."

David's and Goliath's

Active ingredient	Product	Generic Name
100 capsules	1102.26	\$121.84
100 capsules	51.00	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine
100 capsules	1102.26	Fluoxetine



Based on total number of prescriptions dispensed at Canadian retail pharmacies



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BRITA
Water Filter Systems

Fig. 174 of Water Filtration Systems Guide. Brita Canada is a registered name of the brand.

BUSINESS

Memos to Canada Post

For years, the owner of the local drugstore in Mississauga, Sask., a town of 2,450, 222 km east of Regina—delivered his advertising flyers between the pages of the *World-Speculator*, the town's weekly newspaper. That arrangement changed in 1993, when the drugstore joined a national chain. It printed its flyers in Winnipeg and hired Canada Post to distribute them. But according to *Speculator* publisher Bruce Perlin, the account was lost because the Crown corporation actively undercut his prices. That is the accusation Perlin levelled in a brief to the Canada Post Media Review Committee in February—and he was not alone. Dozens of other companies have also complained that the corporation uses revenues generated from mail de-

Rivals say the Crown corporation has no business operating in the private sector



Postal jets in the past office subsidizing the carrier?

livery to undercut its competitors in other areas. "I can't compete against the post office," Perlin told *Newsweek*. "I do not have a monopoly."

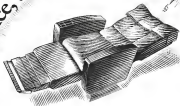
The review committee, charged with es-

timating exactly what businesses the post office should be in, was appointed last July by David Thompson—then the minister in charge of Canada Post. Chaired by George Babineau of Toronto, a former editor-in-chief of the

Toronto Star, it faces the daunting task of determining how the corporation will move into the 21st century as communications technology threatens to erode revenues the post office generates by delivering mail.

Last week, the committee held hearings in Vancouver. 275 groups have made formal submissions and 650 individuals have written letters advising Radwanski—expected to present his findings to the federal cabinet in July—how they would change Canada Post. Those with a direct interest in its operations, such as its suppliers and the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, say it should be allowed to expand into new areas. But others, including Federal Express Canada Ltd. and the Canadian Daily Newspaper Association, argue that the \$500 million that the corporation generates annually

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BUSINESS

by delivering the mail gives it an unfair advantage when it competes against the private sector.

The post office began its foray into the private sector in 1981, when it became a Crown corporation. It has branched out to several new enterprises that lack the post office's business and individual by computer. Internet Mail and Address Mail, for example, allow businesses to electronically transmit messages and advertisements to Canada Post, which then prints and delivers them door to door.

Georges Clermont, Canada Post's president and chief executive officer, believes the only way to adequately finance the post office in the future is to let it continue to grow—even if that means competing head-to-head against private corporations like Federal Express. To increase revenues, Clermont wants to drastically expand operations by plugging the corporation into the wired world. In a recent interview, he said many of the corporation's 18,500 retail post offices across the country could soon have their own automated teller machines, at which customers might pay bills or pick up cash. He also wants to use the Internet to offer a variety of postal services to e-commerce businesses, and as a conduit to send information, such as electronic mail, across the country. If the post office does not generate new revenues, Clermont warns, "the

cost of a stamp would have to go up. Or the government would have to throw in millions of dollars for the use to its competitors."

But many of Canada Post's competitors say they find Clermont's expansion plans "frightening," according to Doug Moffatt, executive director of the Toronto-based Canadian Courier Association, the Crown

Without new revenues, says Canada Post's CEO, the government would have to raise the cost of stamps.

Clermont's expansion

corporation has lost hundreds of millions of dollars over the past four years trying to compete in businesses outside of mail delivery. The post office does not break down losses in specific areas of its operation, but it did report an overall loss of \$67 million in 1995 on revenues of \$4.7 billion.

It was Canada Post's purchase of Toronto-based Paradeur Courier Ltd. in 1993 for \$55 million that galvanized opposition to

Clermont's expansion plan. Paradeur, the largest courier firm in Canada, controls 32 per cent of the market. Its major competitors have told Radwanski that they believe the post office is unfairly subsidizing Paradeur's operations. In fact, Moffatt claims that Paradeur was saddled with \$164 million in debt when it was purchased, but the post office is paying for it out of general revenues. "If they weren't involved in Paradeur and these other things, what would the price of a stamp be?" asks Moffatt. Paradeur senior vice-president Maurice Levy, however, insists that the courier company has its own board of directors and a separate accounting firm, as a result, transferring money to Paradeur is almost impossible. "It's just irrational to think that something could go on and no one would know about it," Levy says.

Although Canada Post is not required to disclose all aspects of internal dancing, the Courier Association hired BDO Dunwoody, a Toronto accounting firm, to analyze the corporation's results. It determined that Canada Post's costs are being held down sharply—from \$238 million in 1991 to just \$5 million in 1995. Says Moffatt: "Letting them expand further will only give them a chance to lose more money." But that is just one of dozens of thorny issues facing Radwanski as he attempts to deliver Canada Post successfully into the next century.

TOM FENNELL

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Robert Laver

Personal Business

The games people play

Among the many changes ushered in by the use of computers in the modern office, one is often overlooked: never before have so many workers wasted so much valuable time playing software. Back in 1985, the software wizards at Microsoft Corp. decided to include an electronic version of the game with the company's now-ubiquitous Windows operating system—cautiously to help employees learn how to point and click with a mouse. But as those made of corporate managers have since discovered, computerized software is much more than a teaching aid. For some people, it's a serious addiction.

And card games are only the tip of the office iceberg when it comes to unproductive computer usage. In the pre-computer era, a worker who wanted a break from the daily grind might have grabbed a few quarters and wandered down to the nearest pinball arcade. Now, that same employee can fire up a multimillion version of pinball on his desktop PC. Meanwhile, his coworkers are on the way to a leisurely round of golf, or a hot X-wing fighter in a fast-paced Star Wars battle game. Hear footsteps in the hall? Simply hit the Alt-Tab keys and flip back to that boring spreadsheet you were supposed to be working on all along.

Another popular way of poking off is to cruise the Internet and the chat rooms of the commercial online services, including CompuServe and America Online. "At one point this past winter I was spending six hours a day chatting to my friends on line," says Serelle Saffaria, a Vancouver writer and former partner in a public relations firm. "I not so much at teething back and forth between the chat channel and my word processing program, so I could pretend to be writing a press release if anyone came into my office."

A few years ago, a group of California researchers came up with a name for this behavior: the idle factor. They estimated that PC users devoted an average of 5.1 hours a week to fiddling with their computers—playing games, adjusting the look of their screens, sending personal e-mail and

otherwise wasting time. More conservatively, a study last year by The Gartner Group, a U.S. consulting firm, found that employees spent an average of 56 hours a year fiddling around with their computers to no useful gain. "At \$26 per hour," the study concluded, "this amounts to \$1,400 per employee per year." The authors noted that while employee fiddling did not originate with the introduction of computers, "the PC is a powerful enabler of the type of activity and it can lead to an infectious state of nonproductivity."

Not every employee frowns on such free time. At MacKenzie Inc., a software company based in Toronto, staff members frequently waste off screens by playing

From solitary
to on-line chat
rooms, computers
have made
it easy to waste
time at work

Marathon, a violent strategy game in which players at different workstations try to kill each other with guns, landmines and other weapons. "We try to keep it to two or three players at a time, but that's only because it gets too noisy and slows down the network," says Kevin Steinhilber, a company based in Canada, a Calgary-based tax software firm, has adopted a more stratified policy, which prohibits the playing of computer games during normal office hours. Yet at the height of the hot season, when 15-hour days are unavoidable, you sometimes see people sharing late their screens playing with jargon. "We say communication manager Virginia. Put my '90's a great way to clear your head when your brain has turned to mush."

But what technology creates, technology can just as easily take away. Companies that don't trust their employees to work alone at their computers can simply choose from among several network products that surreptitiously scan each worker's hard drive for games and other unauthorized applications. And next week, Toronto-based SeQual Technology plans to unveil a sophisticated new software package that will give managers the power to monitor and control their employees' use of the Internet and other on-line services. With tools like that, corporate managers are going to find it increasingly easy to identify—and delete—computerized time wasting.



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AN ELECTION-YEAR BUDGET

U.S. President Bill Clinton unveiled his proposed budget for the 1997 fiscal year. The plan, which is expected to face stiff opposition in the Republican-controlled Congress, projects a balanced budget in seven years—the fiscal 2002. The Democratic budget document includes tax cuts of \$145 billion for individuals and \$13 billion for businesses, together about half the level demanded by Republicans.

GM REACHES SETTLEMENT

The worst work stoppage in the U.S. auto industry since 1973 ended as General Motors reached agreement with strong United Auto Workers in Dayton, Ohio. The 17-day strike, which ended 175,000 GM workers, including 113,000 in Canada, and closed 30 GM North American plants and assembly plants, grew out of GM's plan to send work an antilock braking systems to outside suppliers that can make parts at a lower cost. GM won the right to outsource at two Dayton plants only, but agreed to create new jobs to replace the lost work.

JACKSON'S NEW VENTURE

Declaring their commitment to traditional family values, pop icon Michael Jackson and Paula Abdul have created Aladdin, too. The 10th Anniversary Aladdin surrounded a joint venture that would include those perks, films, concerts, hotels and interactive multimedia projects for children. The duo's first enterprise: a Jackson world center tour.

BANKS GET BURNED

The Bank of Montreal and six U.S. and international banks were voters in a \$430-million fraud that involved a fictitious plan to develop gigantic oil reserves for the tobacco giant Philip Morris. Although the Bank of Montreal lost more than \$100 million, officials said that it has insurance coverage against fraud and that the impact of any losses on the loan is expected to be negligible.

A NEW PRESIDENT

A former head of the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, Roy Pross, 50, will become the new president of the Canadian Bankers Association on June 3, replacing Herb Sinker. A career civil servant, Pross will take over the 10,000-member lobby group in a time of intense public criticism over a series of profits.



Dooley (center), with advocate safety issues were secondary

The Westray climate

New testimony at a public inquiry into the May 1993, Westray mining disaster suggested that senior company executives were aware that levels of methane and coal dust in the New Scotia mine had reached dangerous levels—and failed to act. Former Westray mine supervisor Fraser Agnew told the inquiry that it was clear that a few supervisors "take the heat" for the explosion that killed 26 miners. "A lot of people directly in-

volved...are not up here and being questioned about what went wrong," Agnew said. Subpoenas for several Westray executives, including former president of operations Colin Benner and former chairman Clifford Frame, have been issued, but are not legally enforceable outside Nova Scotia, where most of those subpoenaed now reside. Criminal charges of manslaughter and negligence have also been filed against four more Westray executives: Gerold Phillips and Roger Ford. They are considered the instigators in the Supreme Court of Canada. In other questioning last week, former miner Don Dooley testified that safety procedures were ignored as Westray's total commitment to the coal operation. The laying of stone dust, which might have reduced the mine's rising level of methane gas, could be performed only on overtime, after regular 13-hour shifts had been completed. "Production, production, production" is what Dooley remembered manager Phillips telling him. "You were never to stop production."

Mac-Blo's \$300,000 misunderstanding

Senior executives of Canadian corporations are often faced with the question of how to handle the question of their annual compensation packages. Not Robert Findlay, chief executive officer of Vancouver-based MacMillan Bloedel Ltd. In 1994, the company paid Findlay \$284,772—a handsome wage, certainly, but several hundred thousand dollars less than the salaries paid to corporate colleagues in the forest products industry. Properly understood, Mac-Blo decided to give him a million-gross raise—more than 40 per cent. In 1995, Findlay earned \$484,000 a salary, bonus and perks. He also pocketed almost 275,000 company shares. This year, his base salary was raised another notch, to \$500,000. As pointed out six years ago, Findlay has earned a historic return on his MacMillan Bloedel's per share income, doubling sales to \$5.25 billion and pushing its return on equity to 15 per cent.



CEO Findlay: a very generous raise



Peter C. Newnam

The anti-semantic Lucien Bouchard

In the mid-1990s, when the federal Social Credit Party (predecessor of today's Reform movement) had 30 seats in the House of Commons, its leader was a fundamentalist pre-eminence named Robert Norman Thompson. As a humble lightweight, his most contribution to parliamentary debate was his wonderful analysis of events. "The Americans," he once declared during a debate, "are our best friends—whether we like it or not." On another occasion, he startled a Tory cabinet minister with the admission: "You've battered my brand, now you must be it."

Thompson was one of the few believers in former Alberta premier Bob Abbot's brand of fundamentalist politics that threat-

ened by this touch of irony, Bouchard's original comment revealed his inability or unwillingness to recognize any truth but his own. This is a man capable of anything. He inhabits a world where only what feels his emotions carries the stamp of reality.

Again, last week while chasing the Quebec City summit meeting with 80 of the province's various elites, he dismissed their fears about his reportedly stated intention of making Quebec independent as being "more psychological than real." That was a particularly strange interpretation of his own words, since at the same meeting he set out his emotional code as Quebec's premier: "I say it loud and clear. Don't count on me to squander the historic opportunity which will allow the Quebec people to finally answer their destiny."

Although the Quebec City conference ended triumphantly for Bouchard because both business and labor agreed on a deficit-cutting timetable, those participants who don't support the separatist option quickly realized the premier's threat to hold another referendum remains as "real" as ever. And it scared the hell out of them. Reality deals in facts, not fantasies, and the business leaders who attended the conference and objected to Bouchard's assurances that the effects of his determination to separate from Canada weren't "real" had seen little statistics on their side of the argument. Quebec's economic growth, which stumbled along in a sluggish 1.5 per cent last year, is running at less than half the national average, down drastically from the 3.9 per cent that the province achieved in 1994 when entering the province's new "little more than Jacques Parizeau's dream."

There were many significant statistics made during the Bouchard-sponsored conference. But in terms of making the case for Quebec to remain in Canada, one of the simplest and most persuasive arguments came elsewhere, from Jean Morin, the Montreal-based CEO of Nortel Inc., speaking to the Montreal Canadian Club last week. "The fact is," he said, "that Quebec is too small to fund the dreams and aspirations of Quebecers. Just as Newfoundland is too small for Newfoundlanders, Alberta too small for Albertans and British Columbia too small for British Columbians. A Canadian platform is what we all need."

The Quebec premier will now be more dangerous than ever by being able to bring business and labor (which encompasses the heart of the socioeconomic movement in Quebec) to the table. He has made a highly significant psychological breakthrough. It won't be long before Bouchard will loudly be blaming Ottawa (and Canada) for snuffing Quebec's destiny as a deficit-free province. And it will be a relatively easy jump from that to insisting that only by becoming self-sufficient can Quebec realize its political destiny as well.

But so Bob Thompson once did it so many years ago. "Two rights don't make a wrong."

Pollution and chemicals may be threatening human fertility



THE SPERM SCARE

BY MARK NICHOLS

During the mid-1970s, a Canadian Wildlife Service researcher discovered that birds in Lake Ontario were behaving in a bizarre way, unable to find mates, pairs of female herring gulls were nesting together and devotedly tending clutches of eggs that usually turned out to be infertile. Gave Fox, then in his early 20s and heard in Hall, Que., wondered whether pollutants, including such now-banned chemicals as PCBs and DDT, were mimicking the effects of hormones and clogging the male birds' reproductive systems. That would explain why the male gulls were losing interest in sex, forcing desperate females to set up nest keeping together. Subsequent research showed that Fox's suspicions were correct—raising the question of whether man-made chemicals could have a similar effect on humans. Yes, say Fox and other scientists. In fact, they believe that it may already be happening—that widely used chemicals may be inflicting lesions and slowing sexual development in male babies. If true, that could explain a troubling decline in sperm counts that has been reported in some countries. "Whether or not this is what's going on," says Fox, "we just don't know yet for sure. But the potential is too big to ignore."

Does that mean still another environmental scare for a world be-

set by the greenhouse effect, the vanishing ozone layer and emerging killer viruses like AIDS? Maybe. The hypothesis is unproven and controversial. There are scientists who question both parts of the theory: that widespread declines in sperm counts are occurring and, even if they are, that man-made chemicals are necessarily to blame. But proponents insist that chemicals found in pesticides and herbicides, in plastics, cosmetics, paints, detergents and many other products, can impersonate hormones and could seriously compromise human fertility in the 21st century. And now adherents of that theory have a manifesto: *Our Stolen Future*, a new book that documents the way chemicals have ravaged some animal species by damaging their reproductive, nervous and immune systems—and argues that the same thing could be happening to humans. "We know that there are chemicals out there that can do this," says co-author Theo Colborn, a senior scientist with the Washington-based World Wildlife Fund. "There is more than enough evidence to be concerned."

There is no telling whether *Our Stolen Future*—written with journalist Denise Damos and ecologist John Peterson Myers—will

Human fetus:
sperm cells bright-
over a 50-year period,
average sperm counts
plummeted by 42 per cent

Around the world, sperm counts seem to be declining. Why?

The Danish study came under attack from critics who questioned its methodology, citing changes in sperm-treatment over the years and the scarcity of information about how some of the earlier studies were conducted. But a French report three years later appeared to support the Danish findings. Examining records at a Paris sperm bank, the French researchers found a 30-per-cent drop

eventually attain the same milestone stature as *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson's 1962 book that sounded an early alarm over pesticides and the environment. But U.S. Vice-President Al Gore thinks it may: in a forward to the book, Gore says that *Our Stolen Future* "raises urgent and compelling questions that must be addressed." Some experts go further, arguing that to be on the safe side, governments should start banning suspect chemicals. "We don't know yet whether we have a horrendous problem or not," says Dr. Anna Soto, a medical researcher at Tufts University medical school in Boston. "But some of us wonder what the consequences might be if it takes too long to find out." Even chemical industry spokesmen concede that the issue requires investigation. "We're deeply troubled by the sweeping assertions that are being made," says Eric Alexander, spokesman for the Ottawa-based Canadian Chemical Producers Association. "And we realize we're in an era where we can't just say, 'Trust us.' But scientists have an obligation to verify the facts."

Reproductive capability is not the only worry. Hormone-mimicking chemicals can disrupt other parts of the human endocrine system—the network of organs that send chemical messengers through the bloodstream to control cellular activity and bodily functions. There is already some evidence to suggest that estrogen-like substances can affect the cognitive development of babies. And some experts think that estrogen-like chemicals may be partly responsible for the soaring incidence of breast cancer in women (page 53).

But the most intractable mystery centers on sperm, the tiny, tadpole-like organisms that cause pregnancy by fertilizing a woman's egg. Sperm is measured in millions per milliliter. Canadian doctors report about 90 million/ml. In 1990, fertility experts were stumped when Danish researchers published an analysis of 60 studies involving nearly 25,000 men in the United States, Europe, Asia, Africa and other parts of the world. They concluded that, over a 50-year period, average sperm counts had plummeted by 42 per cent—from a global average of 115 million/ml. In 1940 to only 68 million/ml in 1990.

The Danish study came under attack from critics who questioned its methodology, citing changes in sperm-treatment over the years and the scarcity of information about how some of the earlier studies were conducted. But a French report three years later appeared to support the Danish findings. Examining records at a Paris sperm bank, the French researchers found a 30-per-cent drop

Acting like estrogen, some chemicals may upset the colex hormonal interplay governing sexual development

in sperm counts—from an average of 89 million/mL in 1973 to 60 million/mL in 1992. And a study of Scottish men published in February noted a similar rate of decline.

Though there are no up-to-date Canadian statistics, some experts think that a decline may be under way. Dr. Albanese Del Valle, medical director of Infertility Ltd., a Toronto sperm bank, says that there is some evidence pointing towards a "trend for decline" over the past 30 years. Del Valle compared data gathered by his eight-year-old firm with records from an affiliate in Minneapolis that has been tracking sperm since 1970. Sperm counts in individual men tend to vary, says Del Valle, and the output of donors at the Toronto clinic now fluctuates at slightly lower levels than they did a generation ago in Minneapolis—for example, between 70 and 90 million/mL instead of between 80 and 200 million/mL. "I think there is something happening," concludes Del Valle.

If sperm counts are indeed declining, there is so far no hard evidence to show that man-made chemicals are the cause. Experts say that many factors, including smoking, alcohol and drug use, stress, and viral diseases can affect sperm production. Even tight underwear and the long hours many men spend sitting at office desks have been blamed: they overheat the testicles, which can cause sperm to die.

But more experts argue there are plausible reasons for thinking that man-made chemicals could be hurting sperm production. Even though doctors increasingly are prescribing estrogen supplements for menopausal women, they would never do so for younger women who want to have children. The reason: too much estrogen in a mother's system can upset the hormonal cascade that keeps a male fetus's sexual development. In the early stages of pregnancy, the hormone testosterone plays a crucial role by signaling cells to start developing male sexual and reproductive attributes. And many experts say that if even tiny amounts of estrogenic chemicals—or others that have the ability to block testosterone—breach the fetal barrier during the critical

period, they can upset that process and cause serious damage.

One result could be chemical interference with the development of a group of cells in the testes—known as Sertoli cells—which control future sperm production. The same chemicals might be responsible for higher rates of testicular cancer, under-reported testicular and malformations that have been reported in some countries. "We're talking about chemicals that can build up in us over time and do an end run around the body's defenses," says Colborn. "And we know that some of these chemicals can affect the developing embryo."

Some of the first evidence that chemicals could damage reproductive systems emerged from the animal kingdom. During the 1970s and 1980s, researchers in North America and Europe increasingly found that hormone-mimicking chemicals were upsetting the neurological, immune and reproductive systems in animal species. Among the grotesque results: cornfields with beets so badly rotted they had difficulty eating; fish and turtles with deformed or missing organs. In one of the most dramatic cases of reproductive failure, scientists studying the dwindling alligator population in central Florida's Lake Apopka—the scene of a massive spill of DDT-laced chemicals in 1980—found that male alligators had high levels of female hormones. The majority of alligator eggs failed to hatch, and the baby male alligators that were born had abnormally small penises.

As the wildlife evidence grew, researchers began to



Herring gulls in the absence of males, females begin nesting together

Weak or unhealthy sperm drop out along the way. Only a few hundred may reach the egg's protective wall. Once there, one of the strongest sperm may succeed in penetrating the wall and fertilizing the egg.

On average, it takes four hours to five days for a man's sperm-generating capacity to reach full strength. One day after ejaculation, he is probably at between 25 and 50 per cent of full potential. After 10 days of abstinence, a man's sperm begins to lose its potency.

For reasons that scientists cannot yet explain, sperm capacity seems to vary seasonally, reaching its lowest ebb during the late summer and rising to a peak between October and December.

Seems from Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sex . . . (Genetics Material)



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HUMAN REPRODUCTION

A SPERM PRIMER

- Sperm consist of single cells, each with a thick, blunt head, a mid-piece and a long, whip-like tail used for propulsion. A blob of genetic material—the sperm's payload and sole purpose in life—is carried in the head.
- Spouting from a man's body, the sperm are surrounded by seminal fluid, the milky-looking liquid that in fluid is sugar, vitamins and enzymes. The number of sperm usually varies from 100 million to 300 million/mL contained in less than a teaspoonful of semen.
- Generating a sperm, the sperm swims through the vaginal canal, slithering for the ovulated egg—once a month—may contain an egg.

wonder if something similar could be happening to humans. In fact, medical researchers already had persuasive evidence that exposing pregnant women to estrogen-like substances could have disastrous effects on their offspring. Starting in the late 1940s, doctors in North and South America began widely prescribing a synthetic estrogen called DES to pregnant women to prevent miscarriages. Daughters born to women who used DES often suffered from reduced fertility and rare forms of cancer; among their sons, there were reports of low sperm counts, undersized testicles and other problems. A May, 1983, article in the influential British medical journal *The Lancet* cited the DES evidence and suggested that man-made chemicals in the environment could

be causing a decline in sperm counts," says Sharpe, a senior scientist at the British Medical Research Council's reproductive biology unit in Edinburgh. "But we are still very much at the bottom of the knowledge curve on this. I think a lot of people have overreacted and are treating the hypothesis as being more definite than it is."

Other scientists are deeply skeptical of the hypothesis. Stephen Safe, a Belleville, Ont.-born toxicologist who teaches at Texas A & M University in College Station, points out that many vegetables, including soy beans, broccoli, spinach and cabbage, are rich in natural substances that can mimic estrogens. "Most of the so-called chemicals," says Safe, "are only weakly estrogenic and they are found in the environment in tiny amounts. They might play some role in killing sperm production. But to blame the whole thing on estrogenic chemicals—just don't see it."

In fact, the concern over man-made hormone imitators has begun to stir debate over natural estrogens. Some scientists insist that phytoestrogens, as they are called, may actually pose a greater risk than the synthetic variety. As evidence of this, scientists say that since trees have been reduced to pulp in mills, they release natural estrogenic compounds that are suspected of con-

tributing to the decline in sperm counts.

As suspicions of a possible link mounted, researchers identified a growing number of chemicals that seem to possess the ability to imitate hormones. The list of suspects now includes the large family of chlorine-based substances, including DDT and other pesticides and PCBs—which were all banned during the 1970s but persist in the environment as, like DDT, are still used in developing nations. Also implicated are dioxins and furans, the toxic byproducts of some industrial processes (including bleaching in some pulp-and-paper mills), forest fires and other combustion; a group of chemicals called phthalates, which are used to give plastics flexibility and are found in paints, inks, adhesives, paper and cardboard used in food packaging; and alkyl phenols, chemicals that result from the breakdown of ingredients in detergents, cosmetics, spermicides and other household products.

But there is still no proof that these chemicals are harming humans. Even Richard M. Sharpe, a British scientist who has played a leading role pointing to a possible connection between man-made chemicals and reproductive problems, says caution. "I think it is a plausible hypothesis that estrogenic chemicals may



A waste cleanup effort: toxic hormones mimicking chemicals can cause birth defects

be causing a decline in sperm counts," says Sharpe, a senior scientist at the British Medical Research Council's reproductive biology unit in Edinburgh. "But we are still very much at the bottom of the knowledge curve on this. I think a lot of people have overreacted and are treating the hypothesis as being more definite than it is."

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The suspects: pesticides, plastics—and broccoli

ing some of the deleterious in Great Lakes fish previously blamed solely on dioxin-based polychlorinated biphenyls. Because some phytoestrogens are more potent and color the human body in greater quantities, says Keith Sharpe, head of the University of Guelph's toxicology centre, "I think we should be much more concerned about them than the synthetic ones." But experts who think that synthetic estrogen acts a much bigger threat note that the human body readily breaks down and excretes phytoestrogens, while the synthetic ones survive much longer and can build up in body fat.

While the debate over estrogenic chemicals rages, researchers are trying to find out more about what may be driving down sperm counts. In Ottawa, Warren Foster, head of reproductive toxicology at Health Canada, is overseeing a research study that will test sperm concentrations in at least 500 men across Canada and compare the results with earlier data. And in Quebec City, Pierre Ayotte, a Laval University toxicologist, is studying two groups of young men. Those in the group have low sperm counts, and Ayotte is trying to determine whether they also have high "body burden" of PCBs, DDT and other known estrogenic chemicals.

At the same time, Dr. Eric Dewailly, a Laval environmental medicine specialist, is investigating the effects that similar chemicals may be having on children in Quebec fishing communities along the St. Lawrence River's North Shore. The fishermen and their families have a diet rich in fatty and seafood eggs that contain such air and water-borne contaminants as dioxins, PCBs and DDT. "We know that the blood and breast milk of people in the area have high levels of contaminants," says Dewailly, "and we want to see whether this affects the sexual maturation of males." Pediatrarians in the area report no unusual problems in boys here, says Dewailly. "The effects," he adds, "may be more subtle."

In Edinburgh, Sharpe is conducting animal studies to try to find out more about events in early pregnancy that could affect an unborn boy's future sperm-producing potential. "We're trying to understand which genes, which chemicals are involved," he says, "and the way adverse influences might come into play." Sharpe thinks that environmental estrogens are a possible source of trouble. But there could be others, including cigarette smoke and numbers. "I am aware of some

unpublished studies," says Sharpe, "that suggest smoking could be a factor."

With so much uncertainty, regulatory agencies are just beginning to evaluate the suspected endocrine disruptors. Officials at Ottawa's environmental health protection are currently investigating a number of chemicals, including a glutamate used in floor coverings, hair spray, perfumes and other products. In Washington, Environmental Protection Agency officials say that they are working on the development of new screening methods aimed at detecting endocrine disruptors. According to Dr. Lynn Goldstein, the EPA administrator responsible for pesticides and toxic substances, the chemicals high on the list for review include the pesticide endosulfan and heptachlor, a component in plastics used in such products as drinking-water bottles.

The problem, says Health Canada's Foster, is that identifying chemical culprits that may act subtly over time, or only in combination with other substances, is a lot harder than zeroing in on ones that are clearly life-threatening. "And we have to put it in context," adds Foster. "Every day, we get out of bed and do things that carry risk—driving on highways or smoking cigarettes. So do these suspect chemicals compare to cigarette smoking in terms of their potential to affect human health? We really don't know." That is just one of the questions that has to be answered as researchers investigate whether chemicals—manmade and pervasive—are upending the very stuff of human life. □



Colborn 'more than enough evidence to be concerned'

EXPLORING A FISH LINK

For the past 16 years, a husband-and-wife research team at Queen's University has been trying to determine whether certain pollutants can harm children's neurological development. Concerned about high levels of PCBs and other contaminants in Lake Michigan fish during the 1980s, psychiatrists Susan and Joseph Jacobson tested more than 300 children whose mothers ate fish regularly for at least six years before becoming pregnant. The results were worrisome: at seven months, the children performed poorly on short-term memory tests. To see if their earlier findings can be substantiated, the Jacobsons are now preparing to begin a study involving about 500 children in northern Quebec. Jacobson comments: "The issue are heavily exposed to PCBs, pesticides and other substances," says Gina Muckle, a developmental psychologist based in Quebec City who will be project director. "We want to see if we can replicate the Michigan Studies."

Other researchers have already found further evidence linking contaminated fish to developmental problems in the young. During the late 1980s, researchers under Helen Daly at the State University of New York in Oswego found that the offspring of rats fed regularly with contaminated Lake Ontario salmon had no unusual problems. Compared with animals fed on less polluted fish, the young rats showed a marked inability to deal with stress—they became agitated when confronted with minor changes in their environment. As well, Daly, who died last year, found evidence that babies whose mothers regularly ate Lake Ontario salmon also had difficulty adapting to disturbances. Now, with improved testing methods at their disposal, the researchers working in northern Quebec may be able to determine whether neurotoxic chemicals are in fact damaging young nervous systems.

M.N.

Maureen Coalter was 38 when she began to notice the symptoms. Dizziness, headaches and shortness of breath. Over the next two years, the Halifax nurse developed multiple allergies and frequent respiratory infections—the result, she believes, of an environmental illness caused by airborne pollutants at the hospital where she worked. By June, 1992, she had to stop working. "I couldn't think clearly. I couldn't breathe," she recalls. Only three months later, Coalter discovered a lump in her breast, diagnosed later as cancer. The cancer could be the end result of all that happened to her," says Coalter, a mother of two who underwent a lumpectomy, chemotherapy and radiation therapy for the disease. "I can't say it was the cause, but I feel it was certainly a factor."

It is an increasingly familiar refrain among survivors and activists that environmental factors—from protection and household products to the air people breathe—may have something to do with the high incidence of breast cancer in the Western world. Statistics certainly have opened that possibility. From 1960 to 1990, the lifetime risk of breast cancer in industrialized countries has risen from 1 in 39 women to about 1 in 8—an increase in part owing to better reporting and diagnosis procedures. Equally compelling, perhaps, is that the established risk factors for breast cancer—hormones, early-onset men-



Mammogram: malignant tumor (breast) alarming statistics

THE CANCER CONNECTION

struation, late entry into menopause, and delaying childbirth past age 30—account for only about a third of all cases. Mary O'Brien, a geriatricologist at Mount Saint Vincent University who in late March organized a Halifax workshop on breast cancer and the environment, asks "What's happening to the other 70 per cent of women?"

Trying to answer that, some researchers have focused on a possible link between breast cancer and organochlorines—chemicals used in some plastics, dry cleaning fluids, refrigeration fluids and pesticides. The DDT in 1980, Mary Wehl, a researcher at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, found that women with the highest levels of DDE—a byproduct of DDT that their bloodstreams were four times more likely to develop breast cancer than those with the lowest levels. Another study led by Dr. Eric Dewailly of Laval University in Quebec City, concluded that the breast tissue of women with certain types of breast cancer had higher concentrations of DDE and of PCBs than cancer-free women.

One widely held theory links breast cancer to estrogens, the hormone largely responsible for female sexual development. The suspect organochlorines might promote cancer by mimicking natural estrogens, or by changing the way the body processes the hormone. Debra Lee Thorpe, a senior research scientist at New York's Strong-Cornell Cancer Research Laboratory, suggests that organochlorines may enhance production of so-called bad estrogens, which have been found at elevated levels in cancerous breast tissue.

Dr. Ann Soto, a researcher at Tufts University in Massachusetts, began studying the effects of estrogen-mimicking chemicals—or so-called mimics—on the mammary gland plastic tubing, used during a lab experiment, had caused breast cancer cells to grow. If it had been exposed to estrogens. Since then, Soto says that her team has identified xenotransplants, including bisphenol-A and phthalates, as a host of common products—from plastics and detergents to the lining of aluminum cans. The body, Soto adds, seems able to process the xenotransplants less efficiently than it can natural estrogens. "They also accumulate in fat, so the longer you have it, the more it takes the body to eliminate them," she says. Soto is conducting a

long-term study into breast cancer and xenotransplants, but contends there is already enough evidence to ban such compounds.

But other experts are not so sure. Denise Houghton, a toxicology researcher at the University of Guelph in Ontario, recently published a review of more than 200 studies on the link between organochlorines and breast cancer and found them inconclusive. "When you put all these things together—breast cancer, declining sperm counts—it seems to be suggestive," she adds.

"But the science doesn't support it," Leonard Birt, executive director of the Canadian Network of Toxicology Centres, points out. The now-banned DDT functions as an "extremely weak" estrogen. "I think it's very unlikely that it is going to turn out to be an important contributor to the overall incidence of the disease," he says.

Still, Birt and other health-care officials say the evidence on far more potent further study. In fact, the federal government, the Canadian Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute (NCI) are funding two major studies into organochlorines and breast cancer, now being conducted by Linda Denney and by Kristian Aronson of Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. Dr. Elizabeth Knight, director of medical affairs and cancer control for the Canadian Cancer Society and the NCI, cautions that a number of other possible risk factors—dietary fat, the role of hormones, and obesity in early menarche—have also been linked to breast cancer. "We need to try and

unravel the relative roles of each of these factors," says Knight. Maureen Coalter does not want to wait for research to confirm what she already believes about a disease that killed almost 6,000 Canadian women last year. In late 1994, she and a handful of other women founded Breast Cancer Action Nova Scotia—a group of dozens of other activist networks across the country, formed partly to press for action against pollutants. "It's a big political issue—to start looking at the society you live in that might be making people sick," says Coalter. "But I think governments have to address it, and people have to put pressure on governments to do it. We're trying."

FOR CHILDREN BY SARAH DOYLE DUNNEER

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People

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BARBARA WICKENS



Mickie V
might not get
her wish!



Stamp on
stage,
picking
up an
unhappy
rhythm

Lighters, flames. Lead garbage cans may seem unlikely musical instruments. But in the hands of Toronto musicians who call themselves Stamp, that is precisely what those, and other unexpected objects, have become. The show has proved so popular that there are now three trapeze acts celebrating its second anniversary

Cleaning up
with the
offbeat

in New York City and two touring North America, including stops in Vancouver and Toronto. Trapeze member Matthew Pollock says part of Stamp's appeal is that rhythm is universal. "After one of our performances," he adds, "people that hear rhythm all around them, like the way someone's shoe heels strike the sidewalk."

Making her break

For Vancouver singer-songwriter Megan McCreath, life being patient has become a virtue. In 1990, after several years of talks with record companies, McCreath said that she was finally offered what she wanted most: a recording contract. But there was a catch—she would not get to start recording until a year later. She was not willing to wait that long, so along with her live-in partner, producer Robbie Strickland, she took a chance and financed and released an independent album in January. "It was one of those times where you wonder if you are doing the right thing, but you know that you have to do it," says McCreath, 32. As it turns out, the gamble has paid off. Her self-titled debut CD—an eclectic mix she aptly says "is not really rock, country or folk, but a kind of"—created a stir in the Vancouver music scene. It also caught the attention of Music Canada, Ontario's Music Canada, who signed her to a new five-CD deal. Since then, EMI has re-released Megan McCreath's eponymous "I had to be realistic and realize that might not be another chance," McCreath says about touring as the first deal.

Darden in his own defence

The title of lawyer Christopher Darden's new book about his experience prosecuting the O. J. Simpson murder trial says it all. In *Confronted*, due in Canadian bookstores this week, describes his disgust at the media's verdict, at the racial tactics of the defence team, and at O.J. himself, whom he calls "that butcher." It is his first book, one of an estimated 13 books on the infamous trial—he recalls how he was uneasy about putting Mark Fuhrman on the stand. Darden claims that

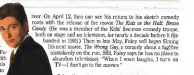
he knew the former detective was racist, old-fashioned and Fuhrman did not plant the evidence. And then there is lead prosecutor Marcia Clark, whom he has been linked with romantically. Darden professes amazement at the public's interest in his personal life. Now teaching at Northwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles, Darden, 39, is unsure about his future. But the \$1.7-million advance that he reportedly earned for the book should give him time to think things over.



Darden, Clark disgust

For the love of laughter

Canadian actor Dave Foley says he finds it easy to portray the frustrated radio station news director who affects an edgy politeness in dealing with his staff's competing newsmen as the NBC hit sitcom *Ned Stedman*. "I'm always comfortable playing myself," jokes Foley, noting that the part of Dave Nelson was created with him in mind. Foley, 32, who regularly commutes with his wife Tabitha and two young sons between their Toronto base and Los Angeles, also has a burgeoning movie ca-



Foley: I'm always comfortable playing myself!

reer. On April 12, he'll see his return to his sketch comedy roots with the release of the movie *The Kid in the Hat*. Since Gandy (he was a member of the *Kid's* five-man comedy troupe, both on stage and on television, for nearly a decade before it disbanded in 1985.) Then in May, Foley will begin filming his next movie, *The Wrong Day*, a comedy about a fugitive who ends up on the run. Still, Foley says he has no plans to abandon television. "When I want laughs, I turn on TV—I don't go to the movies."

Dollars in Dixie

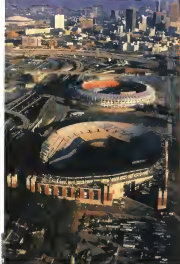
The low-rise, concrete-block structure in which Ed Taylor has run his printing business for the past 17 years sits alone in a dusty construction site hard by the congested heart of downtown Atlanta. Until recently, Taylor's place was surrounded by warehouses and auto-body shops. But in preparation for the Summer Olympics, those buildings were razed, mostly to make way for the city's new Centennial Olympic Park. Coca-Cola Ltd., Atlanta's most beloved corporation, is transforming the property around Taylor's plant into a corporate theme park. While other area landholders sold or leased their sites to the giant soft-drink empire, Taylor was unable to strike a deal. The 79-year-old printer says he was ready to sell, but Coke was prepared to pay only for his land, not for his well-kept building or his moving costs. "It was simple—I could not move if my own company," Taylor says. "So they just decided to build around me."

The Atlanta Committee for the Olympic Games (ACOG) and its corporate sponsors have pretty much had their way in the self-proclaimed capital of the New South. Pledges that the overwhelming majority of area residents supported the bid to host the July 1996 Aug. 4 extravaganza. The business community expects the Games to inject \$7 billion into the city and outlying regions before the closing ceremonies. And Atlanta's no-nonsense boosterism club leaders are eager to promote it as a "world-class city." As a result, contractors are racing to finish \$700 million worth of new housing and sports facilities, including the \$100-million Olympic Stadium. Road crews clog the already hardened downtown arteries in an effort to reassemble the missing infrastructure. And although a roof support at the new aquatic center collapsed last week, organizers claimed they were still on schedule. "It'll be close," says ACOG press chief Bob Brennan. "And we'll get it done."

Atlanta, which has promised to stage "the most memorable Olympic Games ever," can already claim several firsts. It will be the first Olympics in which every country in the world is eligible to compete—there are no boycotts this year and, with the inclusion of North Korea late last year, no political overcasts. It is also the first Olympics to be held by the private sector—ACOG is raising the \$2.3 billion cost of staging the Games through TV rights, corporate sponsorships and ticket sales.

That is good news for local taxpayers, but not for fans who cling to any illusions of Olympic purity—get ready for the first Olympics to boast "affluent" game shoes, *Jasper* and *Whirl of Fortune*. And every flat surface has been constructed for advertising by the likes of McDonald's, IBM and Budweiser. Atlanta may also achieve the dubious honor of being the hottest Games in recent Olympic history: highs during late July and early August average 33° with 90 percent humidity, and the U.S. National Weather Service is predicting a hot-driest-usual season. "That is something that people coming here should be aware of," warns Francine Gelfe, a consul in the Canadian consulate in Atlanta. "The heat and humidity—it can be very bad."

For marathon runners and long-distance cyclists, those condi-



tion will be especially severe. ACOG has millions of dollars at its disposal for providing air-conditioned athletic accommodations—another first—and competitors will have their choice of restaurants, a dance club and live performances by popular bands such as Roddey and the B-52s, all within the secure confines of the Olympic Village. Organizers have also provided state-of-the-art competition venues from the \$880-million stadium where Canada's sprint duo of Donovan Bailey and Reamy Scurry will set 100m supremacy, to the \$100-million rowing/kayaking complex on nearby Lake Lanier, where Maarten Mefferts and Kathleen Hovde will row for gold.

Undeterred by weather and cost, fans brought up the entire first issue of tickets—ranging from \$8 for a spot in the baseball bleachers to \$280 for a court-side view of the U.S. basketball Dream Team. Tickets to opening and closing ceremonies sold for between \$275 and \$800. Hotel space in scarce and expensive, it

entertaining residents have made their homes available through ACOG at prices based on the properties' assessed values.

Atlanta seemed an unlikely candidate to host the Centennial Games. Athens, the birthplace of the ancient Olympics, was the early favorite when the bidding process began in the mid-1980s. Toronto was also a contender, boasting strong government and corporate support. Billy Payne, the hard-driving lawyer who launched Atlanta's bid in October, 1987, landed heavily on the city's corporate closet, particularly from Coca-Cola, a worldwide Olympic sponsor. These Atlanta major

including Atlanta-based NationsBank, AT&T and Sun Life Corp., paid \$54 million to be the Games Partners and sold 200,000 firm and smaller sponsorship levels for a lesser price. With the approximately \$750 million it gets as its 50 per cent share of TV rights fees, and more than \$270 million in ticket revenues, ACOG claims it has now secured all but \$286 million of its projected costs. Organizers expect the rest will come from a second wave of ticket sales.

International officials, leading a heavy emphasis on the home as a decoy, have warned ACOG that charismas of "th' yell" will not quite win the foreign dollars. France, for instance, has complained that there are too few French-speaking staffers at ACOG headquarters. Pundits still find the IOC's position in a 1994 speech at the Canadian Embassy in Washington. "It is important to remember that the Olympic Games are an international event being held in the United States," he said bluntly. "not an American event to which a number of people with exotic accents are being invited."

As they study the dark toward readiness, organizers face some unseen difficulties. Ministers of inner-city churches want reimbursement for lost tithes because, they say, downtown conversion will keep organizations members away during the Games. And a street vendor association is suing the city and ACOG for a whopping \$1.3 billion for being denied vending licenses during the Games. Organizers were also quick to produce their city's side after taking a broadside from Georgia's attorney general, Michael Dawkins, who recently suggested he would feel under walking the streets of San Jose than those of Atlanta. Note to visitors: FBI statistics for 1994 did indicate that Atlanta was America's most dangerous city in terms of violent crime—although the number of murders has actually declined since peaking in the late 1980s.

Residents, however, say they are looking forward to playing host to the world, even if it means riding bicycles for the summer. "People will bitch about this line of thought or that," says Angela Fisher, a former executive assistant in the mayor's office who now runs a private consultancy. "But there is also a great price in the city. People have to want to show it off to put on a good show." They also stand to inherit a rich legacy from the Games. ACOG is banking over \$700 million worth of facilities, from the athletes' village (now dormitories for local universities) to the Olympic Stadium (now half park for the Atlanta Braves) at no charge. Downtown condominiums, built to house sponsors and IOC officials, will become low-income rental apartments.

More importantly, area voters strongly endorsed a \$800-million infrastructure bill to overhaul roads, bridges and other services, particularly in the downtown core of high-rise hotels and convention centers. These improvements are, and new developments spurred by the Olympics, have helped to pull back the Atlanta Braves at the postwar migration to the suburbs, but become decelerated after work hours. That, more than anything else, is why Ed Taylor is as an Olympic booster all the way. "The things that are being done to the city, they might have been done eventually," says the printer. "But this has got things done sooner, and it sure helps."

JAMES DEACON in Atlanta



Payne, a car-dealer-turned-politician, says that no public money was needed

Almost ready, Atlanta dashes towards a corporate Olympiad

Andrew Young, a longtime U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, gave the town a high profile among delegates before the vote by the International Olympic Committee's worldwide membership.

Even with that endorsement, Atlanta secured some IOC backing. ACOG had absolutely no money in 1989—Payne had left its practice in 1987 and run the bid on a \$50-million loan he took against some personal real estate holdings. Richard Pound, the Montreal lawyer and IOC board member, says that ACOG had to not all important matters such as starting construction of new sports facilities because it was so focused on the search for revenue. The IOC was also worried that, without some form of government support, Atlanta would have no safety net if its fundraising efforts fell short. "It's still a little concerned," Pound says, "but as far as we can tell, it's OK."

Payne was convinced that ACOG did not need public money, and he is close to being proved correct. Still, it was not an easy sell. Several big U.S. companies such as Eastman Kodak, Visa and Xerox had already spent millions to become worldwide sponsors of the Olympics. And ACOG started banking on corporate sponsors' dollars just as the recession began. But 10 companies,

The high price of pressure at the top

It was arguably one of the most electric nights of men's figure skating ever—superb performances combined with human drama in the final long program at last week's World Figure Skating Championships. The capacity crowd at Edmonton Coliseum was only former Tinseltown star and current prize money, it seemed positively touched by the poignancy of the moment. The fans waved hundreds of Canadian flags and screamed themselves hoarse as he took to the ice; they clapped in unison, 15,000-strong, to the beat of his busy criss-cross footwork, applauding almost without interruption from quadruple toe-loop to triple Axel. And they were on their feet by the time Stojko entered his final spin. Stojko later called it "unapologetic, energetic," and "one of my best skates—the crowd was amazed, the whole thing was surreal." But his seventh-place finish in the short program had put him in too deep a hole—and he finished fourth overall. The podium, rainwater, was claimed by three superb skaters who each earned standing ovations from the Edmonton crowd. Americans Todd Eldredge, 24, and Rudy Galindo, 30, took gold and bronze respectively, while Russia's 35-year-old Ilya Kulik captured silver. As Canada's Kurt Browning, a former world champion, observed: "That was the best skating by the most people I have ever seen."

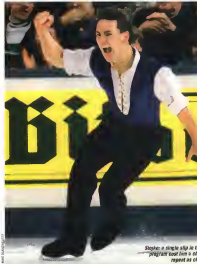
For the local crowd, the excellent performances were compensation for the absence of a medal in an event that a Canadian man has won in seven of the past 30 years. That record clearly put tremendous pressure on Stojko—who captured the last of these championships himself. After the competition, he expressed no bitterness, offered no excuses. "I took everything positive out of that I could," said Stojko, adding "that everything happens for a reason for me." With Stojko out of the picture, Canada's medal hopes came to rest on Stan-Lynn Boucotte of Chatham, Ont., and Victor Kraatz of Vancouver. And the dance team delivered, capturing a bronze medal on Friday night behind two Russian couples—the seemingly invincible Oksana Grubok and Evgeny Plushenko took gold, and Anzhela Bryukin and Oksana Zhukovskaya, who captured silver. It was Canada's first free-dancing medal since Tracy Wilson and the late Rob McEldall took both world and Olympic bronzes in 1988. "The skate is really felt wonderful," enthused Boucotte after the medal presen-

tation, "and how the crowd reacted, and how it all ended with a medal on top of it was so overwhelming. It's hard to put words to it."

In the pairs event, won by Russia's Mariia Eltsova and Andrey Buzhikov, both Canadian teams finished in the top 10—Canadian champions Michelle Kwan of Cambridge, Ont., and Jessica Mitchell Bonbrider of Laval, Que., finished eighth,

while Canada's second team of Kristy Sargeant of Alton, Alta., with Kris Worz of Mississauga, Ont., came in seventh. Worz said afterward that he and Sargeant hoped to work their way into medal contention in time for the next Olympic Winter Games in 1998 in Nagano, Japan. Axel, with dancers finishing so close together, he said. "It's really a nice feeling to know that we're all sort of at the same level and we're all going on the ladder together—it makes it a lot easier to push and pull people." Dancers Chantal Lefebvre of LaSalle, Que., and Michel Brunet of Gatineau, Que., finished 19th, while in the men's event, Swedish Britta of Brownson, Que., came back from a below-par short program to perform a powerful free skate.

Edmonton hosts an electric World Figure Skating Championships



Stojko: a single slip in the first long program cost him a chance you've got another act. In brief, there's report as often, rather pass.



Bruce and Karate: the dance duo delivered, winning bronze, Canada's first ice-dancing medal since 1988

making only the difficult triple Axel, for a final placing of 17th among the 24 competitors in the long program.

Throughout the event, the crowds were exceptionally enthusiastic in what was billed by the host-city media as the 1994 world championships. Even pressmen in Edmonton drew thousands of fans; in an unprecedented show of support, Stojko was showered with flowers at one practice session and given a standing ovation at another. "The people here have been amazing," said Stojko's coach, Doug Leigh. "Who could ask for more support?"

As for the pressure on Stojko and his fellow competitors, much of it is inherent in the sport itself—a lifetime of training put the test in a few minutes of performance time, or, often, in the seconds it takes to execute a jump. "What other sport is like that?" asks former art director Wilson, who was in Edmonton last week on commentary for host broadcaster CTV. "In tennis, you've got another act. In football, there's

Stojko, in fact, is known for his remarkable focus and consistency—which made his tumble during a jump combination all the more surprising. And yet the pressure this year was obviously exceptional. Stojko went into the 1994 world championships as the underdog to Olympic gold medalist Alaine Urmanov. And although she had to defend his title last year in Birmingham, England, he did it just two months after suffering a painful ankle injury that diminished expectations going into the world, even as his success there proved his true gift.

Stojko himself did not attribute his fall to the pressure to perform. "I felt great. I went into the jump, it felt good going up," he recalled in an interview late last week. "But as I came down, I was on the ice before I could even reach. You can't explain it, it just happens." In fact, Stojko insisted that he put more pressure on himself in the long program than he had had in the short. He expressed relief, as well as satisfaction with the way he handled the fall

and came back to skate well. As a skater setting his sights on Nagano in 1998, Stojko's tumble could prove advantageous in the long run. It would be difficult to win four consecutive world titles and then try to win an Olympic gold on top of all that. "This relieves a bit of the pressure," he said last week. "I'm just looking forward to training. I've always been hungry. I've always been a competitor—but even more so now."

Stojko's predecessor as world champion was in Edmonton for the opening ceremonies, but Browning was on tour again with the Show on Ice show by the time the men competed last Wednesday and Thursday after watching the event on TV. He talked about what it was like to skate in Canada as a defending world champion—how the intense pressure helped him at the 1990 worlds in Halifax, but hurt him at the Canadian championships in Edmonton in 1991. "When I skated out onto the ice," he recalled, "the ovation caught me off-guard. The music started before they had stopped clapping and I wasn't ready for it." Still, Browning said it might be wrong to blame pressure for Stojko's fall—Stojko had handled tough situations before. "A jump takes eight-tenths of a second to complete, so the slightest thing can screw you up," Browning said. "At the end of it, it was his only slip in the entire competition."

And that, ultimately, speaks to the quality of the skaters who beat Stojko last week—in the margin that they were able to spin on ice. Browning and Galindo had never finished higher than fifth at U.S. nationals—until he won earlier this year. Along the way, he has also overcome personal tragedy: the deaths of his father and his brother. His compatriot Eldredge, who came in second at the U.S. nationals, called his victory last week "a little over-rehearsed." Eldredge was third at the world in 1991—but did not reach the podium again until a silver-medal performance at the worlds last year. Last week, he nailed eight triple jumps in his long program, including two triple-triple combinations, in a superb, seamless skate. With Russia's Kulik right behind him, even Eldredge conceded that the quality of men at the top of the sport will make it tough for anyone to hang on to the gold year after year. "I just hope that I can keep up what I'm doing, just keep up consistent performances," Eldredge said. Others are hoping for similar things. "We've had some great skating in the men's event," said Stojko, "and I'm looking for a good rumble next year again."

MARY SIMITH in Edmonton

Breaking the silence of Chinatown

An author conjures up a world of secrets

Wayne Choy never dreamed that the publication of his first novel last fall would uncover a central mystery about his own life. Choy's first national bestseller, *The Jade Peony*—nominated for the *Chapters/Books* in Canada First Novel Award and Ontario's *Trillium Award for Fiction*—evokes Van-

"They learned to keep their secrets well," Choy remarks, adding another example from his own life: "Not till after my mother's funeral did I find out that she had been married once before."

The *Jade Peony* sensitively recreates Vancouver's prewar Chinatown through the eyes of three children: Jook-Ling and two



Choy: a teacher's acclaimed first novel brings pioneer Vancouver to life

of her brothers, Jung-Sum and Sek-Lung. All are witnesses to adult realities that they cannot fully understand, from a tragic love affair to dogged devotion to old-country ways. Not surprisingly, many of their perceptions are rooted in Choy's own memories of Chinatown. His father, a ship's cook, was often away, and his mother, who worked in a sausage factory, used to leave him in the care of other families. In the evenings, she would take him along to her mah-jongg games. And no Choy got to meet the older Chinese men and women whose personalities and stories inspired much of *The Jade Peony*. "When the War was over, and I was maybe 6 or 7, the older generation began to pour out their stories," Choy recalls. "We didn't have television,

and it wasn't a literate generation, but oral history was the way we discovered meaning. All of us who grew up in Chinatown absorbed those mythologies without thinking."

Choy believes that those stories, told around kitchen tables, were crucial in sustaining the Chinese through their difficulties. Indeed, he speculates, story-telling—whether oral or in novels and movies—may be the best defence that individuals and cultures have against despair. "We all have to die," he muses, "but if we have to die in silence, as if all our struggles were meaningless, I think that's the truest tragedy."

When Choy attended the University of British Columbia in the late 1960s and early '70s, he was the first Chinese person to enroll in its creative writing course. A year before he graduated, he published a short story, "The Sound of Silence," which was later chosen for the prestigious anthology *The Best American Short Stories* of 1982. It seemed like the beginning of a great career. But Choy was oddly diffident: "I said to myself, 'I can write, but I don't want to.' It's so hard and I don't have anything to say."

Over the next three decades, he published only four stories. But one of them, "The Jade Peony," attracted the attention of Peter Adams, fiction editor at the Vancouver publishing house Douglas & McIntyre, who in 1994 contacted Choy to write a book of short stories. Instead, he responded on "The Jade Peony" and two years later the novel appeared.

The Jade Peony is one of the finest works of fiction yet to break the silence that surrounds so many of the country's immigrant communities. In one of its most moving passages, it contains a woman—idealistic yet cornering—at a moment when she briefly attains multicultural harmony. At Vancouver's Southtown Public School, which Choy himself attended, Sek-Lung falls under the spell of a native crusty teacher, Miss Doyle. Her classroom contains not only Chinese, but also Japanese, Irish, Jewish, native and other minorities. Her kindly overabundant kindness shows them that, although there might be prejudice in the streets outside, their background need be no hindrance. Remarks Sek-Lung: "I side Miss E. Doyle's tight-lipped disciplinarianism: we were all—Irish or Japanese—We had slumped Paradise."

JOHN HENKHO

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Television

That nasty Nemo

Transforming Jules Verne into TV flotsam

MYSTERIOUS ISLAND

(CanWest Global, Saturdays beginning on March 30, various times)

The year is 1860. During the American Civil War, an abolitionist (C. David Johnson) is captured along with his wife and teenage son (Celeste Stevenson and Gordon Michael Woollett) by Confederate soldiers. Joined in prison by a Union captain (Alan Scarth), his trusty black sidekick (Andy Marshall) and a junior newspaper reporter (Stephen Lawry), suspected of being a spy, the unhappy group faces a seagull-ridden, hurricane-battered island. What are six sickle-bodied Yankees to do? Well, what else but break out of prison, via a gunshot, with an entire army unit, hose themselves into a heretic observation balloon ("What an amazing sight!" cries out the journalist) and die off for parts unknown? Eventually, the unhappy wanderers crash land on a mist-shrouded island—and fall into the clutches of a reclusive rite-

antelope, Capt. Nemo. Incredibly? Yes. Interestingly? Surprisingly, no. It may be billed as an action-adventure, but *Mysterious Island*—a new, 10-part series coproduced by Toronto-based Atlantis Films Ltd. and New Zealand's Tamara Film and Television Ltd.—turns out to be a dreary little mope. Granted, it looks good. The show was filmed entirely on location in New Zealand, whose craggy peaks and dense jungles evocatively reflect the fantastic land of Jules Verne's *Mysterious Island*—the French novelist's 1875 sequel to his *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*. But looks alone are not enough to keep the television version afloat. The performances, even from Canadian mainstays

western Johnson (Street Legal), are less than stellar, as the actors struggle to lend direction to stock Victorian characters. (And the origin of Johnson's accent—somehere between Irish brogue and Canadian lingo—is a real mystery.) Still, the most serious problems are the show's leaden pace and



Little girl, Stevenson, drenched down

workmanlike script—the confused and dispirited downer for a family audience. The first half-hour episode ends with a scene that is not giving anything worthwhile away) of the balloon approaching the dreary island, as a howling Nemo (John Bach) watches from below and plots to shoot down the wayward travelers. In later installments, Nemo will set the castaways through a series of trials, from ice counters with glaciers to getting trapped in a cave (oh, boy). Perhaps, with the enigmatic Nemo's involvement in the action, things will pick up as *Mysterious Island* has unless it can make a change, the show stands destined to become lost in the mists of TV mediocrity.

JOE CHIDLO

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For the Record

Eloquence and soulful inventions

Some jazz artists explore the standards, others their inner worlds

VELVET & BRASS

Mel Torme with Bob McConeil
and the Best Rens
(Crescent/Polygram)

Nine years after their first meeting on disc, the Velvet Fog and Canada's Best Rens got together again in a Toronto studio last July. Hollywood-based Torme and McConeil's ensemble combined their superior musicianship on 13 songs from such sources as Gershwin, Kern, Porter, and Rodgers and Hart. McConeil's arrangements of favorites including *Love Rhinoceros* and *I Got a Rock Out of You* (which recently won a Grammy for best instrumental arrangement) accompanying a vocal give space to the orchestra's great soloists, including flugelhornist Saldo Basso and also saxophonist John Johnson.

With it, Torme puts Torme in a real jazz setting. And his voice, which in the past could be too sweet, has acquired a slight and welcome gruffness. Many concertgoers seem to think that vocalists Tony Bennett and Sherry Corrick Jr. are jazz singers, but Torme covers here that he is the Persian to their Firebirds.

INTENTION

Joan Williams (Jazz Fusion)

In a departure from the usual pattern, American pianist Joanne Williams has recorded her impressive music on a Canadian label. Her jazz fusion albums have sold consistently to Williams, of 20 years it has remained to date, we have featured the Californian pianist. With intention, she marks the first by turning a deeply moving solo effort. The eventually recorded album includes both covers and original material, latter being spontaneously created compositions on which she then improvises. "This is not playing 'live,'" she remarks. "It's her notes, as each note is allowing insights, feelings and patterns to emerge from all at once."

Among those new creations is *Melior Alibi*, a reflection on the 50th an-



Roseanne Roses' music of pain and joy inspired by her family

Mothers lost and found

ANCESTORS
Roseanne Roses (BMG)

Virginia-born Roseanne Roses has always been a highly expressive pianist, but her fourth album, *Ancestors*, is her most deeply personal music yet. Within a three-month period last year, the 34-year-old artist—who has enjoyed considerable success since moving from Vancouver to New York City a decade ago—lost her adoptive mother to cancer and met the final Indian birth mother who gave her up as infancy. The pianist worked out her pain and joy in several selections on the latest album. *Changing Spins* evokes her search for a family and a culture that was new to her; the title track reflects her soulful ethnic heritage; and *Lovership* represents her mother's battle with disease.

A prime cast of American musicians assembled to help her interpret her compositions. Redman Chris Potter and New Orleans trumpeter Nicholas Payton (last year's top 25) were joined by the solid rhythm team of Peter Washington on bass and drummer Al Foster. All the elements come together beautifully, making *Ancestors* Roses' most important album yet.

niversary of the end of the Second World War, and *Alibi's* beauty, a gentle ballad dedicated to Bill Evans, one of Williams' favorite jazz musicians. The music of Theodosius Monk has also shaped her, and two of his compositions, *Grease* (Chase) and *Monk's Dance*, are also included. The 30 pieces add up to a serious and emotional album.

TWO BY TWO (VOL. 2)

Dave Young (Jada/Tone)

Toronto-based Dave Young isn't darting between again on *Two by Two*, his second collection of two-part covers, which follows up on last year's pairings with the keyboard masters. On Vol. 2, he teamed up with artists including Gary Peterson and Cedar Walton. This time around, the cast is a little broader stylistically, ranging from Elvin Murrain, the father of Cyrus Chestnut, to Canadian Oliver Jones and Dave Ross.

Winnipeg-born Young is the type of player who is all too often overlooked by most listeners but is held in high regard by other musicians for his knowledge and improvising ability. Young's acoustic bass sound is probably the cleanest and most centered in jazz on *Two by Two* (Vol. 2) he serves the needs of both the seasoned and the emerging pianists while making his own elegant statements.

THE WARP COLLECTION

Time Warp
(Columbia/Fredrick)

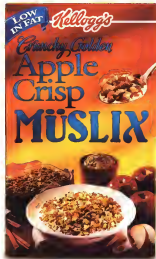
Remembered and joyful, this two-CD package from Toronto's popular Time Warp quartet is a compilation of 21 live and studio sessions—mainly drawn from the band's own archives, some newly released. Drummer Barry Elmes and bassist Al Henderson, co-leaders, started the group with reedman Bob Brough. Along the way, sax player Mike Morley made it a quartet, and more recently Kevin Turcotte, a fiery trumpeter, changed the band's sound, but Time Warp plays only original compositions, most by Henderson and Elmes, but the band understands the central tradition of jazz so well that The Time Warp Collection, a journey tour through jazz history.

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Allan Fotheringham



How the old sage slew the young neo-cons

Dylan Camp, the hen in winter of the Conservative faith, is having great fun these days. The finest stylist currently writing in Canadian journalism absolutely burlesques in glue. It becoms out unworded from his computer, his typewriter or his quill pen—whatever is his weapon.

The reason for his pleasure is that he has converted a new enemy: the earnest young men who think they have mastered the wheel and wish to destroy what has gone steady.

These are the neo-cons, descendants of Nineteen the Nineties, firm believers that only they have seen the truth and must preach it on the masses. Dilson, in his columns in *The Toronto Star*, is so contemptuous of the new fashion for "downtowning" and defilement that he has been described by both his friend Conservative Senator Shirley MacDonnell and University of Toronto historian Michael Bliss as the only columnist for the Left left in Canada.

What fills Dilson with such glee, from his redoubt in downtown Jersey, N.B., is the discovery that the youthful neo-conservatives have decided by themselves to reconstruct the Canadian political system. He has discovered a fest in which they have invited the mislead souls (most of them right-wing conservatives) to a conference to force the Conservative party to sign itself with the Reform—or vice versa—so as to stop the limp-wristed Liberal—or liberal—forces of the land.

What fills Camp with such hilarity is that the invitation admits that "outside press" will not be allowed to attend this meeting on Mt. Olympus. It is, it must be allowed, the funniest concept since Jolly Jack Parsons dipped deep into the sun to deliver his celebrated "nuclear and ethical" speech.

The main push behind the push is my *Financial Post* colleague David Price, son of the late Barbara Price and real estate tycoon Dr. Murray Price. An extremely bright and extremely energetic Harvard grad, he has had the advantage in the past of my advice—given free—that he might contemplate deciding whether he wants to be a journalist or an empire-builder. David, a friend who greets my free advice with humor, might be right in his fervor. Who knows? I may be wrong. (The last time was 1938.) Dilson, giggling in hilarity from his quill pen, thinks the idea



of the Edmonton *Valley* is ridiculous. Are journalists in this context now going to be more powerful than elected politicians? He has been around the block. He will have not recovered in many years for an party president, stating that John Diefenderfer respect democracy and accept a vote on his leadership. He renewed life at the quill pen came when, within days of death, he received a new heart (from a young female). An admiring Peter Gosselin—just now recovered from a heart problem of his own—was him joking note at the time. "Can I have your old one?"

The old Camp with the new heart knows that times have changed when columnists with large talents and big egos ruled the globe. Walter Lippmann, the most powerful journalist in the world for decades, had prime ministers and kings rearrange their summer holidays to accommodate his annual visits to Europe.

Bruce Haindman, from his Viceroy retreat, and buddy Grant Tinker of the then powerful *Winning Post*, when in the Press Gallery regularly wrote speeches for Liberal Leader Lester Pearson and then in period on their production.

It is, then, a different game. Camp's giggling revolution has already forced *The Edmonton Journal* to announce that their columnist invite Laura Gosselin—late of service *Telegraph Alberta Report*—will not be allowed to attend the Press room. It is understood that *The Globe and Mail* has put the same spinning. Its resident neo-con from from Andrew Coppe.

Joe Clark, the exemplar of July 1982, has recently informed us that another constitutionalist conference that the problem was public opinion is that it is "taken ill." Public opinion, if informed or not, will in time decide if the benevolent Conservative party and the continued Reform evangelists would be best to mold or a coalition of the Right. Swedish columnist rubbing on others' foreheads in Edmonton case will not do.

The world has always been made up of political alliances, from the Picts and the Saxons, to the OCF and the unions that it didn't help much the now-battered NDP. It takes time and can't be forced by our American Republican wannabes who think they can short-circuit the system.

There is a delightful prediction before us. If the Edmonton source of gurus over labor plans—improbable—we can see: TV cameras and 42 reporters with notebooks clattered outside the conference hall, asking why the "outside press" cannot be allowed to cover the historic remembrances of the left columnists who are to decide how Canadians should make up their minds.

Down in a coal mine as Wales they might be able to stage this gathering. It is open ground in Canada, whatever the site. The young revolutionary neo-cons have yet to learn the moral value of oil, as advised in an old Reform music: "Give her dynamite/and give her mine/that's the way, ever/that I said." Dilson has got you guys dead.

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